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VOLUME LXVI, NUMBER 20027

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1998 • ELUL 17, 5758 • 17 JAMADI AWWAL 1419

NIS 4.50 (EILAT NIS 3.85)



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PM sending envoy to soften Egypt on peace plan

By DANA HARMAN, MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MOHAMMED NABE

An Israeli delegation will be dispatched to Cairo to meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in advance of tomorrow's visit by US envoy Dennis Ross, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday.

A top government official said Israel sees Mubarak as an impediment to the conclusion of an agreement on a second redeployment, and is hoping to convince him to soften his belligerent, unhelpful position.

Netanyahu, who spoke with Mubarak by phone for 15 minutes yesterday, is planning on sending either political adviser Uzi Arad or cabinet secretary Dan Naveh, or both.

Ross is coming to try to clinch enough of an agreement to allow for a summit to be held in the US later this month. It is expected that a deal on the long delayed second redeployment would be signed at this meeting.

See EGYPT, Page 2

IDF preparing for surge in West Bank violence

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

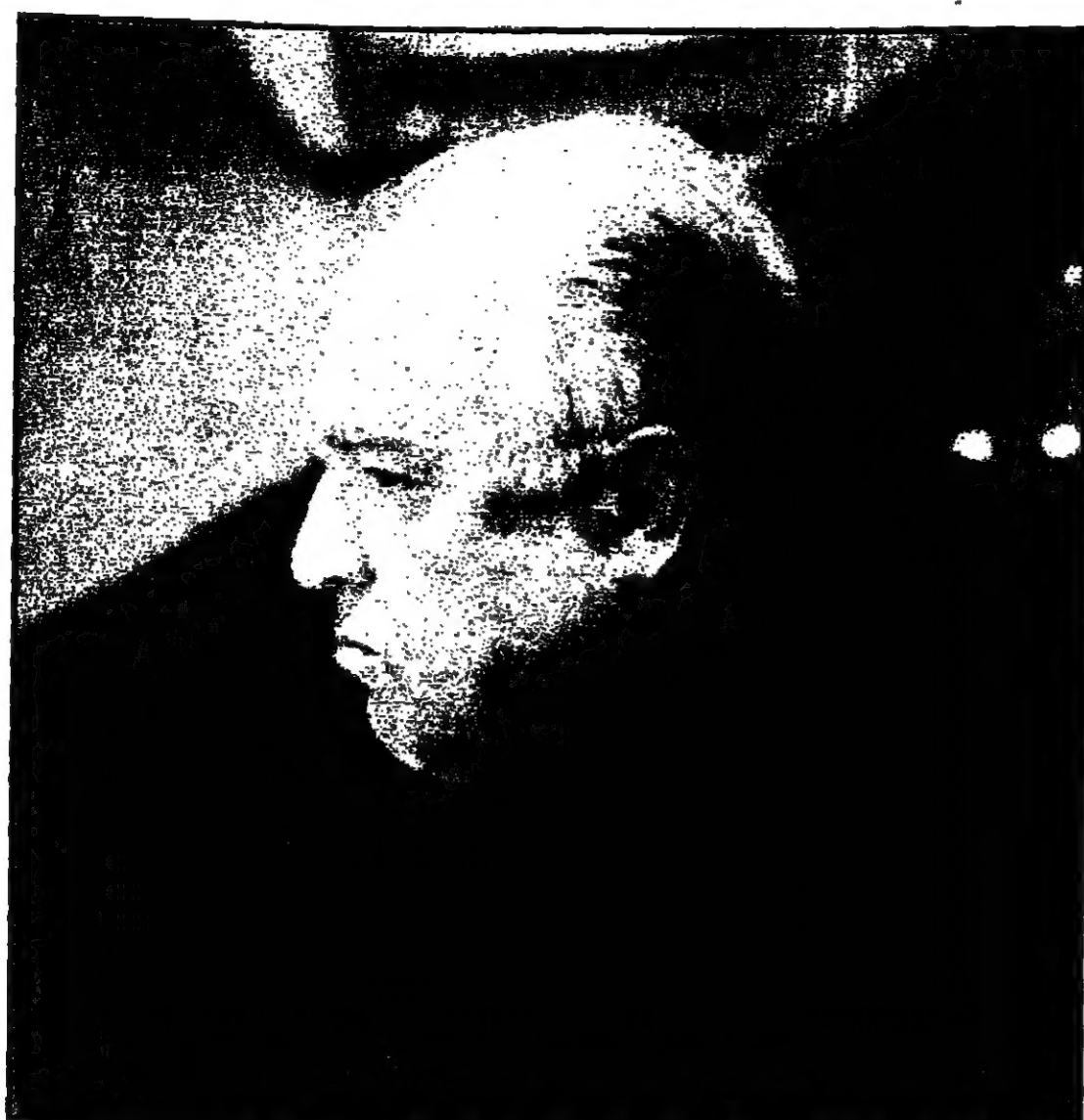
The Central Command has assessed that armed conflict may break out in the West Bank and the command is preparing for the worst, a Central Command source said yesterday.

The focus of the assessment is May 1999, when the Palestinians have said they will declare an independent state.

"The chances are that there will be violence surrounding this and we are preparing for it," said the source, who could not be named according to military regulations.

Meanwhile, Arutz 7, the settlers' pirate radio station, reported recently that Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz told a group of top Central Command officers during a closed-door meeting last week that the command's major mission is to prepare for armed conflict with the Palestinians.

See SURGE, Page 2



Viktor Chernomyrdin, Russia's acting prime minister, listens to yesterday's debate in the State Duma, before the lower house rejected his candidacy for a second time. (AP)

Duma rejects Chernomyrdin again

By LESLIE SHEPHERD

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin suffered blows on several fronts yesterday when lawmakers rejected Viktor Chernomyrdin, his candidate for prime minister, for a second time, throwing Russia into even deeper political turmoil as the economy hurtles out of control.

The ruble crashed again dramatically and Central Bank chairman Sergei Dubinin, who has been widely blamed for mishandling the crisis, offered to resign. Some Russians flocked to stores to buy goods before prices shoot up any higher.

"The economic crisis is gaining momentum with catastrophic speed," Chernomyrdin, who is acting prime minister, warned the State Duma before it torpedoed his nomination 273-138. "We are all standing on the edge and no time is left for settling scores. We must begin acting."

The vote sets the stage for a final confrontation between Yeltsin and his opponents. Yeltsin must decide whether to nominate Chernomyrdin again or find another candidate. If the Duma rejects Yeltsin's choice a third time, the constitution requires that he dissolve parliament and call new elections.

Russia has been operating with an interim government for two weeks, since Yeltsin brought back Chernomyrdin, who he fired in March. Chernomyrdin's efforts to

win confirmation by parliament have left him little time to devote to the worst economic crisis since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Both Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin met with leaders of the parliamentary factions at the Kremlin before the vote, but there was no breakthrough.

Yeltsin suggested that the parliament confirm Chernomyrdin, then assess his performance after a "trial period" of six to eight months.

Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov said his party, the largest in the Duma, would never accept Chernomyrdin. He complained that Yeltsin is not interested in a real dialogue with parliament and had not listened to opposition calls for an alternative candidate.

"This is not a victory," Zyuganov said after the opposition defeated Chernomyrdin. "The country is in trouble."

Chernomyrdin picked up 44 more votes than on the first vote on August 31, but was far short of the 226 he needed for approval.

Zyuganov said Yeltsin told the parliamentary leaders he would meet with them again today. He quoted Yeltsin as saying: "Vote and tomorrow we'll come back to the table." The Interfax news agency reported.

The Communists and their allies say they have nine alternative candidates, including several top Soviet-era bureaucrats. The moderate Yabloko party yesterday sug-

gested Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov.

A parliamentary committee plans to submit a draft motion to impeach Yeltsin today, the ITAR-Tass news agency said. The motion is an interim step in a long and complex impeachment process that has little chance of passing.

Meanwhile, the Central Bank set the official exchange rate at 18.9 rubles to the dollar, down sharply from 17 on Friday. Deals that are to take effect today pegged the rate as low as 30 rubles a dollar.

The ruble was trading at about 6.2 to the dollar when the crisis hit last month.

Trading in US dollars was canceled on Moscow's currency exchange because people only wanted to buy dollars, not sell them. Street exchange points remained open and were offering to buy dollars at around 20 to 22 rubles.

"Everyone is waiting for the confirmation of the prime minister and the announcement of a new economic program," said acting deputy premier Boris Fyodorov. "If there are no offers, the [ruble] price can be anything."

Chernomyrdin is advocating an ambitious if somewhat unclear plan to stabilize the economy within several months. He has also sought to reassure Western governments and Russians that there will be no retreat to a Soviet-style economic system.

Schools expected to reopen today

Teachers, Treasury finalize accord in overnight talks

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Teachers, parents and pupils can breathe a sigh of relief this morning and finally head for school, after a tentative agreement reached yesterday ended the week-long teachers' strike.

Barring unforeseen glitches, the written accord was due to have been signed early this morning, and at press time all sides were optimistic school would at long last begin.

Earlier yesterday, the Histadrut and government signed a 1998 wage agreement, ending a two-day general strike by 300,000 public-sector workers. The deal was clinched moments before a threatened shutdown of Ben-Gurion Airport was to go into effect.

"It appears at the moment that the school year will be opening," Histadrut Teachers Union chairman Avraham Ben-Shabbat said late last night as education and finance officials were fine-tuning their agreements.

He added that he only could be sure once an agreement was signed, but that he expected that to happen within a few hours.

According to that agreement, teachers will receive an overall 1.9 percent real wage increase and additional payments for accompanying school trips, and principals and teachers performing administrative duties will receive a 25% pay increase. Funding for the long school day and special programs for gifted and needy pupils is also included, according to union officials.

The school trips issue, which had led to teachers' sanctions last year, will be resolved by having teachers

paid NIS 250 per school trip involving at least one overnight stay the first year, NIS 400 the next, and NIS 500 the third year, rather than the NIS 53 they had been paid until now. Fees for accompanying other school trips will be determined on an hourly basis, according to this rate.

The teachers backed down on their effort to convince the Treasury that they were entitled to

only declare the classes are beginning once the deal is signed, but the situation now is that it is almost certain classes will begin tomorrow.

But just under an hour later, the Histadrut Teachers Union chief, who could be excused for suffering from a severe case of deja vu, told A New Evening "I won't risk an answer" when asked if the strike was ending, calling the Treasury "unpredictable."

Wage deal with Histadrut ends two-day general strike, Page 2

a retroactive 1% increase in the money allocated to pensionable items. The Treasury also was demanding that the teachers make no further salary demands this year. The current wage agreement runs out at the end of the year.

Parents Association chief Shai Lachman said the parents would demand the teachers make up all the missed school days. He said he hoped attention could now be focused on the education system's real needs, chiefly school safety.

The by-now-familiar scenario of optimistic Education Ministry officials and cautious teachers' union and Treasury representatives was seen again yesterday afternoon, when ministry officials beeped reporters shortly after 4 p.m. to tell them unequivocally that the teachers had accepted an agreement "and will return to school tomorrow."

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy, who had been involved in the negotiations all day, told Israeli Radio: "The truth is that they will

Secondary School Teachers Association chairman Ran Erez was being equally cagey, saying: "The Education Ministry announces what it wants to announce, and is responsible for it. But so long as there is no signed agreement, there is no school tomorrow."

Earlier, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had scolded the teachers at the press conference announcing the end of the Histadrut strike. "My son asked me: 'Dad, maybe I'll be in the army before I ever get back to school. How long will this strike go on?'"

"It need not continue a single minute more. It can be ended in an hour. And I call on the teachers now to stop this unjustified strike. I say to the teachers' organizations: Enter and complete negotiations now, and return to the classrooms tomorrow."

Reacting to Netanyahu's remarks, Erez said: "I think it's nice that the prime minister is periodically updated by his son about what's going on in this matter... I don't think he is familiar with what's going on in this matter... if he had entered into it and it really mattered to him, the strike wouldn't have had to be so long."



St. Louis Cardinals' slugger Mark McGwire slams his 61st home run yesterday, tying Roger Maris' major league record. (AP)

McGwire hits No. 61

ST. LOUIS (AP) — No. 61 flew off Mark McGwire's bat yesterday, matching Roger Maris' home run record. He launched Mike Morgan's pitch 430 feet to left field in the first inning, tying the mark that has stood for 37 years.

After connecting, McGwire threw his hands in the air and then, with a fist thrust high, began his triumphant trip around the bases.

The Cardinals won the game, 3-2. (See complete story, Page 30)

high five from former St. Louis teammate Gary Gaetti as he approached third.

Chicago's Sammy Sosa, whose 58 home runs have pushed McGwire down the stretch, joined the celebration by applauding his rival from right field.

McGwire's baby son, Matt, 10, was waiting at home plate where the Cardinals slugger ended his trek with a two-footed hop. McGwire hoisted his boy in a big hug, while groundskeepers rushed onto the field to replace the bases — no doubt headed to the Hall of Fame.

The Cardinals spilled out of the dugout to mob McGwire and it took him a few moments to make it to the bench. But he didn't stay there long, springing back out to salute Sosa and the Maris family, watching from seats on the first-base side.

In a touching tribute to the man he matched, McGwire acknowledged Maris' children by pointing his right index finger to the sky, tapping his heart three times and blowing a kiss. "He tapped his heart, like dad was in his heart," said Kevin Maris, a son of the former New York Yankees slugger.

Edelstein to press for Pollard release

By BATSEVA TSUR

US Vice President Al Gore and National Security Adviser Sandy Berger recently met with senior government representatives to discuss the possible release of convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard. The Jerusalem Post has learned.

There have been several meetings — including one between Gore and Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky in July — since Israel officially confirmed that Pollard

was its agent. But the Americans reportedly requested that the issue be kept under wraps.

However, Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein is to leave tomorrow for Washington to begin lobbying on Capitol Hill at the official behest of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

He will meet with senators and congressmen on committees related to Pollard's former position as a Naval Intelligence officer, a source close to Edelstein said.

In a reversal of previous policy, Edelstein will also try to garner

the support of Jewish organizations to join in the lobbying on Pollard's behalf.

Edelstein, who has been an outspoken proponent of public support for Pollard, was the first government minister to visit him in prison. He has also stated publicly on various occasions that he would like to see Pollard brought to Israel during the jubilee year.

But Pollard's wife, Esther Zeitz-Pollard, denounced Edelstein's planned visit as "a smoke screen designed to fool the Israeli public."



Jonathan Pollard

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NEWS

in brief

Gaza, Tel Aviv, Barcelona to be triplet cities

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo declared yesterday that Gaza and Tel Aviv would become twin cities along with Barcelona, Spain. The bond will be sealed at a ceremony on September 24 in Spain. Milo lauded the decision as "an important step for relations between residents in both cities and the PA and Israel."

Margot Dudkevitch

Schiffer coming for Jericho casino launch

Super model Claudia Schiffer will help to launch the Oasis Casino in Jericho next week. She was invited by Dr. Leo Welner, chairman of Casinos Austria, which will operate the Oasis.

Greer Fay Cashman

IAF drone crashes near Hebron

Palestinian security officials have turned over more parts of an IAF drone which crashed last Friday in a Palestinian-controlled area in the Hebron hills, IDF sources said yesterday.

The military sources were not sure which pieces were returned, but said that the "brains" of the reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft were still unaccounted for.

Reports said the drone crashed due to a "technical failure," and it fell in area B, which is under Palestinian civilian control. Israel maintains overall security responsibility for the area, but the local residents had quickly collected the remnants of the drone before Israeli troops could get there.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Bill for one chief rabbi per town prepared

The Knesset Interior Committee yesterday approved for first reading a bill calling for each town to have only one chief rabbi, instead of a Sephardi and an Ashkenazi chief rabbi.

The bill, introduced by MK Moshe Gafni, has the blessing of Israel's two chief rabbis. It will be brought before the Knesset when it reconvenes for its winter session.

A committee headed by the country's two chief rabbis would be convened to appoint the chief rabbi of each town. At yesterday's meeting, the committee accepted chairman Micha Goldman's amendment that in places where there is only one rabbi at present — such as Ra'anana where one of the chief rabbis died — the situation should be frozen until the bill becomes law.

Batseva Tsor

Kleiner expected to quit Geshet

MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet) is expected to announce today he is leaving the Geshet Party. Kleiner, who has called a press conference to make "a personal announcement" at noon today in Beit Sokolov, also is expected to say whether he will rejoin the Likud or plans to form a new right-wing party.

Kleiner's dissatisfaction with Geshet culminated with Geshet leader MK David Levy's meeting with Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo two weeks ago to discuss forging a political alliance.

Kleiner heads the Land of Israel Front, which strongly objects to the peace process and to any pull back from the territories.

Michal Yudelman

Owners allowed to move into Pisgat Ze'ev flats

Owners may now move into some 320 new apartments in Pisgat Ze'ev in northern Jerusalem after delays over the past year due to delays in construction of Road 1, the municipality announced yesterday.

The delays were due to disputes with haredim over the bones buried there.

Pisgat Ze'ev leaders had made an agreement with the municipality that the apartments would not be occupied until completion of the road, which connects Pisgat Ze'ev to Jerusalem's center. A municipality spokeswoman said that Mayor Ehud Olmert "pressured" the local committee to allow the residents to move in now, although the road will only be completed by the end of October.

Amy Klein

Thieves rob young cancer patients

Electronic equipment meant for young cancer patients was stolen from Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer last Thursday, the hospital said yesterday. Some of the equipment, including stereos, a collection of CDs, and furniture, was removed by unscrewing it from the floor.

The room was equipped by the parents of Ronit Greenfuss, who died of cancer, so children treated in the department could do their homework while listening to music or sit in solitude.

Judy Siegel

Police confiscated 140 kg. heroin this year

Police have seized 140 kilograms of heroin since the beginning of the year — seven times more than during the same period last year, Police Inspector-General Yehuda Wilk revealed yesterday.

"This doesn't mean that drug use has risen seven times, but that there is a big increase in police activities in the war against drugs," Wilk told reporters.

David Rudge

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of

RACHEL (Rosalind) BAKER

Daughter of Rabbi Yossef Leib Rosenberg

The funeral took place yesterday, Monday, 16 Elul 5758, September 7, 1998, at the Eretz Hachaim Cemetery in Beit Shemesh.

Shiva at Hagefen 36/2, Efrat.

Mourners: Her daughter Haya Winarz and her family.

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE - JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION

The students, faculty and staff grieve with the family and mourn the loss of

PROF. HAVA LAZARUS-YAFEH

Chair of the Board of Overseers

Distinguished scholar, lover of humanity and outstanding leader

We shall cherish her memory and be guided by her vision

Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman, President
Dr. Alfred Gottschalk, Chancellor
Burton Lehman, Chair, Board of Governors
Rabbi Michael Marmur, Dean

Histadrut wage deal ends strike

Public sector workers to get retroactive pay rise October 1

By NINA GILBERT

The Histadrut and the government signed a 1998 wage agreement yesterday morning, ending a two-day general strike, with both sides declaring they had achieved their goals.

Under the agreement, all public sector workers are to receive a retroactive wage rise in salaries on October 1.

The deal, signed at 10 a.m., came after the Histadrut declared an expansion of the strike to Ben-Gurion Airport. Hours later, many workers began to return to their jobs. The strike, launched on Thursday, kept 300,000 public sector workers away from their jobs.

Government workers are to receive a grant of 30% of their pensionable salaries for erosion from the beginning of the year and a down-payment on erosion for the rest of the year.

The increase amounts to a wage rise of slightly more than 1.5% and comes in addition to the 0.5% cost-of-living increase paid in August salaries.

The Histadrut reneged on any further payment claims for 1998. It has not, however, reneged on its claim for a total wage increase of 8% for 1998, which can be brought up in 1999.

The sides also committed to negotiate on updating the wage scale so as to deal with the problem of base salaries lower than minimum wage and to update other grade levels.

Moreover, the sides agreed to continue talks on a new employment structure in the public sector regarding workers employed via personnel companies and tempo-



A Licensing Bureau clerk signals to a woman, asking her to be patient, after the Histadrut strike ended yesterday and workers returned to the job. (Isaac Harel)

rory workers.

The Histadrut also committed to keep industrial peace over these issues until the end of 1998.

"The Histadrut achieved its aims to update wage scales and deal with employment outside of the government sector," Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz said. He said an agreement could have been reached without launching a general strike if Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman had been more

flexible.

"We are delivering great news to workers today that even under low inflation, we can set goals, although based in the framework of wages," he said.

Neeman told a news conference that the agreement "opens a new page" in work relations in Israel, based on mutual trust. "The Histadrut demonstrated responsibility and leadership to reach an agreement," he said. He called on

teachers to show the "same

responsibility" as the Histadrut.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said that "the winner in this struggle was the Israeli economy. We have a new start and are going back to work."

Neeman said that in negotiating with the Histadrut, the government wanted to avoid adding taxes or breaking its wage framework.

"We learned from past mistakes, I hope that this new agreement

will also lead to an agreement in

1999 based on mutual respect and

a preservation of real wages," he

said.

At the same time, Neeman said, a precedent should be set to preserve real wages in the coming years.

"Real wages rises given at a time when there is no growth is like putting handcuffs on the state budget for the coming years. It is not just for one year," he said.

Netanyahu OKs MiG sale to Ethiopia

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Despite pleas from Eritrea, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has decided to allow Elbit Systems to supply upgraded MiG-21 fighter jets to the Ethiopian air force.

The deal had been in limbo since Eritrea protested to Israel, asking that it not allow the war planes to be sold to Ethiopia since the two countries were at war.

Ethiopia had been urgently seeking fighter jets and Elbit offered to sell it 10 MiG-21s which already had been upgraded

for the Romanian air force. But the deal needed to be approved by the government.

Netanyahu's spokesman Aviv Bushinsky confirmed yesterday that the prime minister has decided not to block the deal. He said that the deal would not be implemented immediately and that conflict between the two east African states would likely ebb before the jets were delivered.

"The first airplane is scheduled for delivery within one year," according to a statement Bushinsky issued. "We hope that by then the situation will calm

down. Israel's official policy is not to sell arms to areas of conflict."

Elbit is currently upgrading 100 Romanian MiG-21 jets in a joint venture established with Romania's Aerostar. The 10 jets sold to Ethiopia will be in return for 10 Ethiopian air force MiG-21s which will be upgraded and replace the Romanian jets.

Ethiopia currently has about 70 Soviet-made MiG-21 fighters, but they are in questionable shape since Ethiopia has not been able to maintain them properly since breaking off ties with Russia.

SURGE

Continued from Page 1

However, military sources in the Central Command denied that Mofaz met last week or recently with top officers in the Central Command.

According to foreign publications, such as Jane's Intelligence Review, the Central Command is not adequately prepared to deal with aggressive raids by Palestinian light infantry units, some of which may be equipped with antitank weapons and heavy machine guns.

But military sources said that the assessments were outdated because under Maj-Gen. Uzi Dayan, the previous OC Central Command, radical changes were made to deal with potential armed conflicts.

Some of the changes include retraining troops for combat in the West Bank under different scenarios, reinforcing and restructuring brigade-level commands and strengthening the territorial reserve-based defense forces. Also, the military sources said,

the function of the Border Police has been altered so it has more troops available for intervening in any West Bank violence.

"Since the [September 1996] tunnel riots, Dayan focused much of his energy in preparing for any eventual armed conflict. He turned the thinking around 180 degrees so I don't know what Jane's is talking about," one military source in the Central Command said.

Margot Dudkevitch adds: Since taking office in mid-June, OC Central Command Maj-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon has reviewed some 50 applications for weapons permits from settlers in Judea and Samaria who want to carry IDF-issued weapons to enhance their personal security. He has approved 10 of them, a Central Command source said.

IDF officials in the Central Command said they believe that another 250 requests are waiting to be assessed.

After the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, applicants for permits for IDF-issued weapons are investigated by the Police, General Security Services,

Health Ministry and judicial officials before being passed over to IDF commanders for authorization.

Meanwhile, military officials said terrorist organizations are targeting settlers in Judea and Samaria and cited the recent attacks in Yitzhar and Tel Rumeida as examples.

The IDF has responded by beefing up its presence in communities throughout Judea and Samaria. The Central Command also is considering allowing reservists from combat units who live in the territories to serve in their own communities.

In addition, several civil guard posts have been opened in Givat Ze'ev, Ma'alach Adumim and Ariel. Civil guard volunteers also assist traffic police on the roads in Judea and Samaria.

Meanwhile, the Central Command is considering using administrative detentions and restricting the movement of right-wing extremists if police investigations and the judicial process fail to stop them from continuing to harass Palestinians and incite violence.

ment, but rather had focused on "regional problems."

The official, however, said Netanyahu felt Mubarak was receiving a one-sided view of the problems and was planning to ask him to listen to, and accept, the Israeli version.

"We hope Egypt will do what a country which says... it is interested in an agreement between us and the Palestinians should do, and that is move forward," Netanyahu said at a press conference.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian coordinator of the negotiations, Hassan Asfour, called the allegations that Mubarak held such sway over Palestinian decision-making "absurd."

"This is the new stage in the ongoing game Netanyahu is playing. He now says we are intransigent, and that it is due to outside pressure. But we all know that our position has not changed. It is and remains: We accept the US proposal, and we do not accept the Israeli interpretations of that proposal," he said.

Arafat met with European Envoy Miguel Moratinos last night.

During a meeting with Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo in Ramallah earlier in the day, Arafat said the Palestinians hope progress will be made during Ross's visit, but stressed that it depends on Netanyahu. He hinted that there were still problems concerning the 3% of the West Bank Israel wants to turn into a nature reserve.

Arafat denied reports that documents on the withdrawal had been drawn up by the PA and Israel.

PLO executive committee secretary general Mahmoud Abbas described his meeting with Moratinos yesterday as useful.

Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rudeineh said that Ross's visit will prove how serious and loyal the US is to its commitments and to the implementation of the proposals.

If talks fail, he added, the alternative can only be violence and therefore it is necessary for the US to ensure that Israel implements the proposals.

A split decision

Last December, when Histadrut chairman Amir Peretz and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman announced the end of a five-day public sector strike that left millions without airport, banking, or kindergarten services, it was clear that Peretz and the labor federation came out the winners.

At that time the employees won most of their sought after pension benefits, the Histadrut won back recognition that it was a force to be reckoned with, and Peretz — with an eye on the Histadrut elections just a few months away — won accolades as a genuine labor leader.

If Peretz won that bout by unanimous decision, the Histadrut-Treasury fight that finished yesterday ended in a split decision. There were no unanimous winners, no clear-cut losers.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, at his press conference announcing the end of the strike, put a positive spin on the two-day work-stoppage that kept more than 300,000 people away from their offices. "They always ask who won," Netanyahu said. "I say without hesitation the Israeli economy won. It is a good agreement, a good beginning, and time to return to work."

Not so fast, said Frances Raday, a professor of labor law at Hebrew University. The economy would have been considered a "winner" had the agreement been worked out in negotiations between the sides, thereby sparing the country a strike that cost it millions of shekels.

But Raday said the strike illustrated that the government is ill prepared to use collective bargaining to resolve conflicts. This is "worrisome," she said.

According to Raday, the Treasury could have claimed victory in the strike if the compromise agreement reached yesterday were to be reached in another three weeks. "Then they could have said the Histadrut was broken, and agreed to a sensible solution. But since the Histadrut

agreed to this solution after only three days, it indicates it was not far from the position it set out for itself in the beginning."

Roby Nathanson, former head of the Histadrut's Institute for Social and Economic Research, now chairman of the Israeli Institute for Economic and Social Research, a private think tank, said the Histadrut succeeded in increasing its members' real wages.

Although it had asked for an 8% increase, and in the end only received 1.8%, Nathanson said this figure is a floor, not a ceiling, that will undoubtedly rise during upcoming negotiations.

But Dan Jacobson, a professor at Tel Aviv University's department of labor studies, said that striking over this type of pay increase in an era of single-digit inflation is anachronistic.

"In the past, when we had double-digit inflation, holding on to one's real wage amid a rising cost of living was a real issue. But we are talking in different terms now that inflation is 3%, 4%, 5%," he said. "We have a different set of codes now. The Histadrut has not adjusted to the new realities, and has not come out forcefully on the most important issues that affects its electorate and potential membership."

These issues, Jacobson said, include "the budget, the change of priorities in the budget, investment in infrastructure, job creation programs. I hesitate to say it, but also advancing the peace process, because this is a cornerstone for everything else. These are the major issues which the Histadrut should in the future try to advocate."

"Generally, my impression is that whatever has been agreed upon represents considerable weakness on the part of Histadrut. The Histadrut was not able to demonstrate that it had any considerable clout, and picked the wrong fight at the wrong time."

IN CONTEXT

IN CONTEXT

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مكتبة الامم المتحدة



'Suha' in Shuafat

At a 'suha' in Jerusalem's Shuafat refugee camp yesterday are (from right) Jerusalem Border Police chief Lt.-Cmdr. Ataf Dagash, Asst.-Cmdr. Efi Tibi, in charge of police in the city's Arab areas, and camp elders. The reconciliation followed a police operation in the camp to arrest those responsible for Saturday's violent outbreak. (Text: Amy Klein; photo: Isaac Harari)

'Ha'aretz' publisher and editor questioned by fraud squad

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Ha'aretz publisher Amos Schocken and the paper's editor, Hanoch Marmari, were questioned under caution for more than nine hours yesterday by the police fraud squad in Jaffa on suspicion of extortion, stealing a confidential medical document and obstructing an investigation.

The investigation began after former **Ha'aretz** reporter Eitan Rabin, who was fired in November after 17 years there, lodged six complaints several months ago and presented the police with recordings, transcripts and other material. Rabin wrote as a freelancer for *The Jerusalem Post* briefly after he was fired, and was then offered a position as a staffer at *Ma'ariv*.

Rabin himself has been questioned repeatedly over the last four months regarding the allegations, which Schocken and Marmari deny.

The investigation is proceeding along several lines, including the suspicion that **Ha'aretz** illegally obtained a document which said that former Chief-of-General Staff Lt.-Gen. (res.) Amnon Lipkin Shahak had cancer.

Just before Lipkin-Shahak was appointed Chief-of-General Staff, Rabin's complaint said, Marmari received information that Shahak had cancer.

Marmari allegedly instructed his staff to verify the report, and then political reporter Yoram Tal allegedly said he could get the document with the help of his wife, who worked at Tel Hashomer Hospital,

where Shahak was being treated. The document did turn up in *Ha'aretz*, Rabin said.

Schocken told reporters last night that he believes Rabin is being paid by *Ma'ariv* to make the allegations. "In my opinion, today Rabin is getting a salary to incriminate me," he said.

Ma'ariv denied the charge. Another complaint deals with an alleged attempt to bribe Rabin's wife with the sum of NIS 15,000 in exchange for a promise not to publish any of the cassettes in his possession.

Rabin also accuses *Ha'aretz* of trying to get ads from the defense ministry in illegal ways, including extortion.

The publication of a further complaint was banned by the censor.

PM to head for Georgia — in style

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN and DANNA HARMAN

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will travel to Georgia tomorrow to celebrate a thousand years of Jewish life in that country, an Israeli official said yesterday.

Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze invited Netanyahu to make the trip when he was in Israel in January. While in Georgia, Netanyahu will receive honorary

citizenship from the city of Tbilisi.

The trip also marks the maiden voyage of the new prime-ministerial aircraft, which has been upgraded by Israel Aircraft Industries for a million dollars.

The used Boeing 707 was purchased by the IAF for \$7 million from a US leasing company. According to industry sources, the aircraft was previously owned by the emirate of Bahrain.

It will be replacing a worn, old-fashioned 707 whose noisy old

engines limited its flight range and prevented non-stop trips to the US and Far East.

During Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's recent trip to China, he had to land in Uzbekistan to refuel. The plane, which still had seat belts with logos from the defunct Pan Am airlines, had two small beds, but no other special facilities. It was rife with technical faults and not long ago suffered a crack in the cockpit window in mid-flight.

CIA, PA security officials to meet tonight

By MARGOT DUDKEWITZ and MOHAMMED NABE

A high-ranking Palestinian security official denied reports that the Central Intelligence Agency plans to open offices in Palestinian Authority-controlled areas in order to enhance security cooperation and monitor PA efforts to combat terrorism.

"We don't need anyone to teach us how to carry out our work," the official said.

Meanwhile, preparations are underway for a security meeting

between CIA officials and PA security officials tonight. PA Chairman Yasser Arafat met with West Bank Preventive Security Chief Jibril Rajoub last night.

Palestinian sources claimed that Rajoub will take part in the meeting, though he has been boycotting meetings with either US or Israeli officials since the IDF captured two Tsurif cell members last November. Palestinian Police had been transporting Hamas fugitives Abdul Rahman Ghanimat and Jamal Alhour to a Nabulus prison when the IDF

intercepted them.

Rajoub has stated that until Israel returns the terrorists, he will not take part in meetings with Israeli or US officials.

The aim of tonight's meeting is to review the security arrangements that were drawn up last

December.

PA Chief of Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Amin Hindi, Head of West Bank General Intelligence Brig.-Gen. Tawfik Tirawi and Gaza Preventive Security Chief Col. Mohammed Dahlan are to participate in the meeting.

PA security accused of beating Gaza man to death

A Palestinian man, apparently beaten to death by Palestinian security officers at a government office, the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group and the man's family said yesterday.

The Palestinian Authority said it was investigating the death on Sunday of Hussein Abed Abu Ghali, 55, from the Gaza town of Khan Yunis, who was married and a father of 10 children.

Abu Ghali had gone to a PA office in Gaza to ask the PA to intercede with the Israeli government, which had refused to grant him permits to take his 16-year-old son to Jordan for medical treatment.

It wasn't clear what happened during his visit, but he was pronounced dead later at Shifa hospital, where a doctor signed the death certificate without performing an autopsy, the PHRMG said.

The dead man's daughter, Amina, 26, and his brother Omar said it was apparent that Abu

Ghali had been beaten and that he had blood and a footprint on his shirt.

An entry in the hospital log listed the cause of death as "a drop in blood pressure."

The PA attorney-general's office said that the PHRMG had asked for an investigation and that a report would be made "as soon as possible."

Amina Abu Ghali said the family had asked the Khan Yunis police to investigate the death. Police had exhumed the body for an autopsy, she said.

The PHRMG said the number of deaths caused by PA security forces was increasing, and called on PA Chairman Yasser Arafat to personally see that those responsible for Abu Ghali's death were punished.

Abu Ghali's son Taha was severely wounded during violent demonstrations in May to mark the *nakba* (catastrophe). Palestinians' term for the creation of the state of Israel. (AP)

Extremists accuse settlers council of collaborating with GSS against Jews

By MARGOT DUDKEWITZ

Following calls by members of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza to expel extreme right-wing activists from their communities, a leaflet surfaced in Kiryat Arba yesterday morning depicting council director-general Aharon Domb and other council members hugging General Security Service officials.

A message written on the leaflet said, "While Jews are being murdered Yesha council collaborates with the GSS."

Council members said they were shocked and dismayed by the leaflet, especially as it had been produced by Jews. Council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar said the council will devote a special session next week to the issue.

Tayar said council members decided to refrain from filing a complaint with police until the upcoming session. Domb, she said, received a copy of the leaflet in France, where he is meeting with council supporters.

"The leaflet is drawn extremely clearly and professionally. Domb is smoking his pipe, surrounded by council members and GSS officials. One one side there is a Jewish of a GSS official beating a Jewish boy wearing a kippa and next to it an Arab wearing a keffiyeh stabbing a Jew wearing a kippa and

blood running from his wounds. "The writing in Hebrew on the leaflet is hard to decipher, but Rabbi Kahane's name is written clearly on one side."

Council members have been extremely vocal over the recent attacks against President Ezer Weizman and other government officials perpetrated by Hebron extremists such as Baruch Marzel, Noam Federman and Itamar Ben-Gvir.

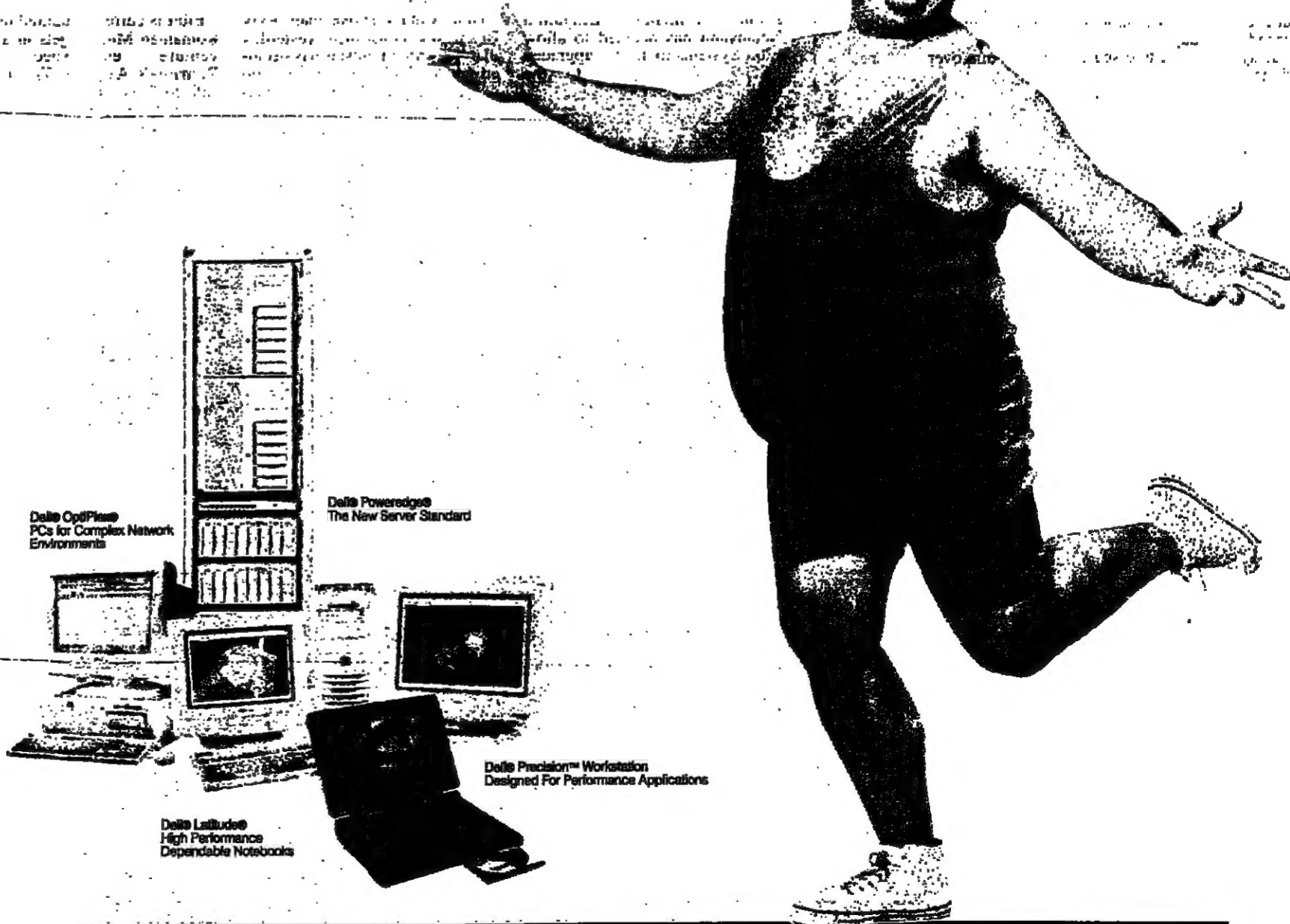
The fact that Marzel attempted to turn Weizman's condolence call to the widow of Rabbi Shlomo Ra'anani at Tel Rumeida into a circus, Tayar said, is inexcusable.

Since Ra'anani's murder, the Hebron Jewish community has declared that the acts of extremists do not represent the majority of its residents. These actions result from the frustration felt over the continued terrorist attacks and murders of Jewish settlers, the community said.

Council members have demanded that the extremists be ousted as their acts are besmirching the entire settler population.

"The fact that Jews incite against Jews is inexcusable. The council agenda has always been to represent residents in our communities and express the realities of their daily lives. Such actions by extremists are counterproductive to the very people they live among," Tayar added.

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PM, Yilmaz stress friendly ties

By DANNA HARMAN
and ANNE O'SULLIVAN

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz yesterday reiterated that the growing ties between their countries are not intended against any other country.

"Perhaps the use of the word 'axis' which, I think, was attributed to me, or used by me, creates a false impression," said Netanyahu at a joint news conference. He had previously been quoted as saying that the Turkish-Israeli relationship would serve as a regional defense axis.

"We are talking about the most natural cooperation between two countries that want to contribute to the stability of the region... Our ties are not directed against anyone," said Netanyahu, who stressed that the friendship was not meant to harm Syria.

In an editorial earlier this week, Syria's official *Al-Ba'ath* newspaper described Yilmaz's visit as a "hostile move." The Lebanese and Jordanian press have also expressed concern at the relationship.

Yilmaz relayed a generally similar message about not wanting to harm third parties, but did not miss the opportunity to lash out at Syria, with whom Turkey is at odds over sovereignty issues, water rights, and Syria's support for Kurdish rebels.

"Frankly, I don't care how Syria comments on my visit. Everyone is aware of the hostile intentions of Syria toward Turkey," he said.

His visit focused on doubling the annual \$1 billion in trade between the two countries. He was accompanied by the ministers of Sports, Agriculture, and Trade and a large business delegation.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu greets Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz yesterday.

(Brian Radden)

The leaders spoke of future joint projects, including the possibility of Turkey supplying water and energy to Israel. The sides signed cooperation agreements in sports and agriculture, and a communiqué on industry and commerce.

On Cyprus, Yilmaz said that if Nicosia goes ahead with the purchase of Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missiles, Turkey will not sit by quietly.

"This is a common concern, not only for us, but for the entire Western world," said Yilmaz. "We are able to take all necessary measures to protect the Turkish people in northern Cyprus. I am afraid the installation of Russian missiles on Cyprus will have much more complicated effects in the area."

Israeli defense officials denied that Israel is mediating in any way

between the Cyprus and Turkey. "We haven't been asked and we are staying as far away from that dispute as possible," said one senior official.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai also tried to put to rest reports that Yilmaz was asking Israel to side with Turkey in its dispute with Cyprus.

"We are not doing anything with Turkey against any other country

in the Middle East, certainly not against Cyprus. We are very friendly with Cyprus... we are not going to deal in any case with the Cyprus problem," he told reporters.

Yilmaz, who began his tour in Jordan, is scheduled to travel to Ramallah to meet with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, before returning to Turkey later today.

Expert: No strategic alliance with Turkey

By DAVID RUDGE

Military ties with Turkey are likely to develop in the future but without reaching the level of a strategic alliance, according to Dr. Amikam Nahmani, a senior researcher at Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies. The most important aspect of relations between the two countries is on the economic level, he added.

"It would be a mistake to think that the highly publicized military relations between Israel and Turkey are any more than what has been published," said Nahmani. "It would certainly be wrong to anticipate a future situation in which Turkish troops would come to the aid of Israel or vice versa. There is no strategic defense agreement between the two countries and I don't think there will be one."

Nahmani said that economic ties had developed since 1949, when Turkey officially recognized Israel, but had been kept under wraps for much of that time.

"David Ben-Gurion once complained that despite these close ties, Turkey tended to treat relations with Israel like a man treats a mistress, by keeping them hidden," he said.

The "mistress syndrome" was

broken in the early 1990s, following the Madrid peace talks, when Turkey upgraded its relations to ambassadorial level.

"The biggest volume of trade between any two countries in the Middle East is between Israel and Turkey, around \$1 billion a year, with Turkey exporting electrical appliances, industrial products, and raw materials and Israel exporting mainly high-tech products, technology in general, agricultural products, irrigation equipment, and know-how," said Nahmani. "The free-trade agreement signed with Turkey two years ago is destined to double this by 2000."

Nahmani maintained that part of Turkey's Middle East policy is to avoid becoming involved in regional conflicts.

"Turkey has never really overcome the trauma of World War I in which Christian countries fought one another and Moslem Turkey lost an empire," he said. "Ever since then, Turkey has steadfastly concentrated on developing the country and bringing it from the 19th to the 20th century and preparing for the next century, while leaving wars to others."

"For these reasons I don't see Turkey entering into a strategic alliance with Israel."

Southern rapist's remand extended

By AMY KLEIN

Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday extended the remand of the alleged "rapist from the South" for 10 days. He is suspected of raping, sodomizing, or molesting 14 women. Two of the incidents occurred in Kiryat Gat and the rest occurred in the Jerusalem or Beit Shemesh areas.

Police representative Ofer Osta said the suspect confessed to raping and sodomizing some of the 14 women. The suspect was also accused of robbing one of his victims after he attacked her.

But the suspect's lawyer, Lior Tomashin, denied the allegations. The court said a state psychiatrist could examine the suspect.

Judge Aharon Farkash extended the ban on publishing the suspect's picture. Farkash was responding to the police request that it would ruin the investigation, because many of the victims had yet to identify the suspect.

The ban on publication of the suspect's name and hometown was only extended for 24 hours.

Osta said that police were investigating the "hundreds" of phone calls they received from women alleging contact with the suspect.

A man who would only identify himself as the father of "one of the girls who wasn't violated" told *The Jerusalem Post* that the suspect did terrible damage to the women of the national religious community. "Dozens of women in the national religious community are embarrassed to come forward," he said.

Osta said the investigation would take a long time because "none of the victims will come to the station on the same day because their families do not want their daughters to recognize one another," he said.

According to police, the man picked up hitchhikers - religious women aged 16-21 - and offered them jobs, claiming he was a camp director. He then attacked them in a forest.

65,000 immigrants expected if Russian crisis continues

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

If the current political and economic unrest in Russia continues, some 65,000 people can be expected to make aliya from there in the next year, Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein predicted yesterday.

This is 20,000 more than the projected number before the problems began, he said. Edelstein was speaking at a meeting of the Ministerial Committee on the Diaspora.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who attended the meeting, promised to allocate sufficient funds to cope with the expected increase.

"Judging from the impressions of those I spoke with, the self-confidence of the Jews of Russia, under the current conditions, has been considerably shaken," said Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky who visited Russia last week.

"Whether or not the Russian government succeeds in setting up a more stable regime from the economic point of view, we can expect more aliya," he said. "In this respect, it is up to the Israeli government to take appropriate steps."

Immigrants who arrived over the past decade, and who could contribute toward absorbing the newcomers, would be asked to cooperate with the authorities, Edelstein

said.

The plans do not envisage placing immigrants in absorption centers. Instead, they would be urged to settle in Jerusalem and then in other places where there are suitable housing and jobs.

Jewish Agency chairman Abraham Burg, who attended the meeting, said that the agency is cooperating with the government in a joint committee which would handle any increased immigration.

"We must have patience and see how many people come. It is too early to judge at this point," Burg said later.

"At present, most of the interest in aliya is coming from the smaller, outlying areas and

not from Moscow. There are no indications right now of the kind of wave of aliya we saw at the beginning of the 1990s. We must remember that there are only 900,000 potential immigrants left in the former Soviet Union now. Nevertheless, the potential is great and we must have the right tools."

Efraim Holmiansky, director-general of the Zionist Forum, who was in Moscow this week, said that "people are in a state of shock [at the economic developments]. The new generation of businessmen has been completely wiped out. Right now people are trying to deal on a day-to-day basis with the new reality."

Islamic scholar Lazarus-Yafeh, 68

Prof. Hava Lazarus-Yafeh, 68, a scholar of Islamic culture and civilization, died Sunday night in Jerusalem. Lazarus-Yafeh, who has taught at the Hebrew University since 1959, won the Israel Prize for history in 1993.

She was known for her research into Islamic religion, relations between Islam and Judaism, Moslem polemics against the Bible, and contemporary Islamic fundamentalist movements.

Lazarus-Yafeh, who earned her doctorate at the Hebrew

University, was awarded an honorary doctorate by Hebrew Union College and served as a visiting scholar at Harvard University, a visiting fellow at St. Antony's College, Oxford, and a fellow at the Annenberg Research Institute.

She was born in Wiesbaden, Germany and moved to Haifa with her family in 1939. Her late husband, Immanuel Yafeh, was a well-known author and educator.

She is survived by a son, a daughter, and a grandchild.

Jerusalem Post Staff



Hava Lazarus-Yafeh (Werner Braun)

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesman, Aviv Bushinsky, yesterday accused talk show host Dan Shilon of "crossing the lines" of decent journalistic behavior and taking a political stand against Netanyahu.

Shilon dismissed the accusations, upheld his right to criticize the prime minister and reprimanded Bushinsky, whom he called "patronizing."

The exchange was triggered by

Netanyahu's decision to cancel his scheduled appearance on Channel 2's *Dan Shilon Live* next Friday, following Shilon's criticism of the prime minister last Friday.

In his first show of the season, Shilon made light of Netanyahu's offer to take a salary cut. He said Netanyahu makes NIS 30,000 gross per month and, unlike other MKs, the state pays for almost all of his living expenses.

"That's NIS 30,000 for fun and indulgence alone," Shilon said. "So you gave up NIS 1,500 and they [the other MKs] live on it... you don't live on it, so think, you have time to think of an answer until next Friday."

Bushinsky accused Shilon of "crossing the lines" by taking a biased political stand against Netanyahu and of behaving

unfairly. He said Shilon should have confronted Netanyahu with the question about his pay cut directly.

"He's a journalist, and must ask topical questions. He's not a columnist or publicist. There's a journalistic way to present questions. He should have shown restraint and asked Netanyahu even the hardest question directly. What did he expect, that the prime minister would apologize for his pay check?" Bushinsky said.

"I expected Shilon to behave in a more elegant and appropriate way. But the question itself was provocative. Shilon also displayed bias throughout the show, quoting comments from weekend papers' columns without giving Netanyahu the possibility to reply," he said.

The prime minister makes NIS

12,000 net a month. Why don't they ask why Clinton doesn't pay the White House's water and power bills, or the city rates?"

Bushinsky asked.

Shilon, speaking on Israel Radio's *It's All Talk*, rejected Bushinsky's accusations, saying his question must have hit a raw nerve "because in the press conference Netanyahu presented himself as one who made a big sacrifice. I think justice to the facts must be done."

"I didn't cross any line. We in the electronic media are perceived as devoid of any political opinion, according to the Bolshevik attitude that a good journalist has no opinion. That's totally false. There's no such animal as objectivity or an objective journalist. We are, however, bound by integrity and fairness," he said.

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Mahal graduation

Bob Tepperson (center), who was one of the many Mahal volunteers who came to help Israel achieve its independence, poses with Mahal volunteers from English-speaking countries who celebrated completing the Mahal 2000 program yesterday.

(Ilan Oseendryver/Israel Sun)

Anne Frank Foundation hunting for missing film footage

By JENNIFER CHAO

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Guardians of Anne Frank's legacy revealed yesterday they've been searching for original film footage of the Jewish diarist that disappeared years ago, possibly in the United States.

The black-and-white, silent footage contains fleeting images of the teenager who penned the famous diary documenting her two years of life hiding from the Nazis.

Although there are several copies, the original footage hasn't been seen since it was loaned to an unidentified American documentary filmmaker in the 1980s, the Amsterdam-based Anne Frank

Foundation said.

The foundation realized the reel was missing in 1995, but didn't disclose the embarrassing disappearance until this past weekend, when the Dutch television newsmagazine *Network* reported the loss.

"Most probably, the original was not returned," said Ita Amahorseja of the foundation, which runs a museum in the Amsterdam canal house where Anne and her family hid in a secret annex behind a movable bookcase.

The footage of Anne, shot in 1941 before her family went into hiding, was made by an amateur cameraman who was actually filming the wedding day of Anne's

neighbors.

The camera focused on the bride couple coming out of an apartment building, but panned upwards fleetingly for about seven seconds, showing a young Anne leaning out of a window watching the couple.

Anne then turned her head backwards and spoke to someone else in the room.

Because copies exist, the original probably has more sentimental than historical value to those who have devoted their lives to researching Anne and the Holocaust.

The footage was included in documentaries in the US and Germany in the 1960s. In more recent time, it was seen in the documentary *Anne*

Frank Remembered, which won an Academy Award in 1996.

Word of the missing footage comes amid a fuss over the discovery of previously unpublished pages of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Squabbles over royalties and copyrights, as well as publications of two new biographies on Anne, also have revived interest in her life and diary.

Anne and her family were sent to Nazi death camps after their hiding place was betrayed in August 1944. Anne died of typhus in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, just weeks before it was liberated in the spring of 1945.

Outgoing British ambassador: Despite differences, ties are strong

By DANNA HARMAN

Five weeks ago, the British Foreign Office asked Ambassador David Manning to return to London, where he will serve as a deputy director-general. On the eve of his departure from Israel, Manning gave an interview yesterday to *The Jerusalem Post* in which he said bilateral relations are strong. But he added that differences persist over the peace process.

Manning, who is winding up a two-and-a-half year stint, stressed that Israeli-British cultural, economic and political ties have always been — and remain — firm.

Visible trade between the countries, for example, stands at some \$3 billion dollars annually, with Britain being one of Israel's largest trading partners.

That said, the ambassador claimed it was no secret there were differences of opinion between the countries over handling of the peace process.

One such difference came to light earlier this year with British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's decision to tour Har Homa with a Palestinian delegation, despite Israeli opposition.

"The fact that we do not agree in regard to Jewish settlement policy



David Manning (Isaac Harari)

is no secret," said Manning. "Cook, endorsed by both the British government and the European Union, was interested in focusing on the stalemate in the peace process and the issue of settlements.... He knew his action would meet with Israeli disapproval, but was hoping to have a civilized discussion about the differences. This is the way mature countries relate."

Manning said that, in any case, the diplomatic incident which ensued was blown out of proportion, and that Prime Minister Netanyahu has since met and

worked successfully with Cook. "It was certainly an argument, but it was an argument between friends," he concluded.

Manning said he regrets that during his time in Israel, the peace process remained somewhat stuck, and added he hopes for a speedy conclusion of the second redeployment as well as movement towards discussing the final status agreements.

Still, Manning said that he is not overly discouraged. It is clear, he said, that continued efforts, courage, and mutual goodwill were needed, but that he had high hopes.

Manning promised that Britain and Europe would continue playing a supportive role in the peace process, complementing the main US efforts.

As an example of Britain's contribution, he pointed to British support of Palestinian endeavors to build up civil society. Britain is the biggest donor country to the Palestinian Authority, he said. A stable PA, said Manning, is in the interests of both sides.

Manning will be replaced at the end of October by Ambassador Robert Francis Cornish, who is arriving from Hong Kong, where he served as the senior British trade commissioner.

Major water pipe bursts near Gedera

By DAVID RUDGE

Mekorot chairman Doron Gruper yesterday urged the Treasury to allocate funds to replace a dilapidated pipeline that supplies drinking water to dozens of towns and villages in central and southern parts of the country.

Gruper's call follows the third time within a month that the pipeline from the Yarkon to the eastern Negev burst.

The latest breakdown occurred in the section of the antiquated concrete pipe between Kfar Menashe and Kibbutz Revadim, not far from Gedera.

Mekorot officials said that repairs would take at least 48 hours to complete and that supplies of water for agricultural use in the region had been reduced or cut completely to prevent disruptions to domestic consumers.

The old pipeline, built in 1955, supplies fresh water for domestic and irrigation purposes from Rosh Ha'ayin to northern parts of the Negev, including towns like Lod, Ramle, Rehovot, and Gedera.

Gruper said it was essential to replace the concrete pipeline with a modern metal one in order to prevent bursts, which lead to major disruptions in supplies as well as

wasted water.

He said that repairs over the years had cost hundreds of thousands of shekels, but even so the Treasury had declined to approve the necessary funding for a new pipeline.

Mekorot has put forward a plan to gradually replace 20 kilometers of the pipeline every year at an annual cost of NIS 60 million over the next five years.

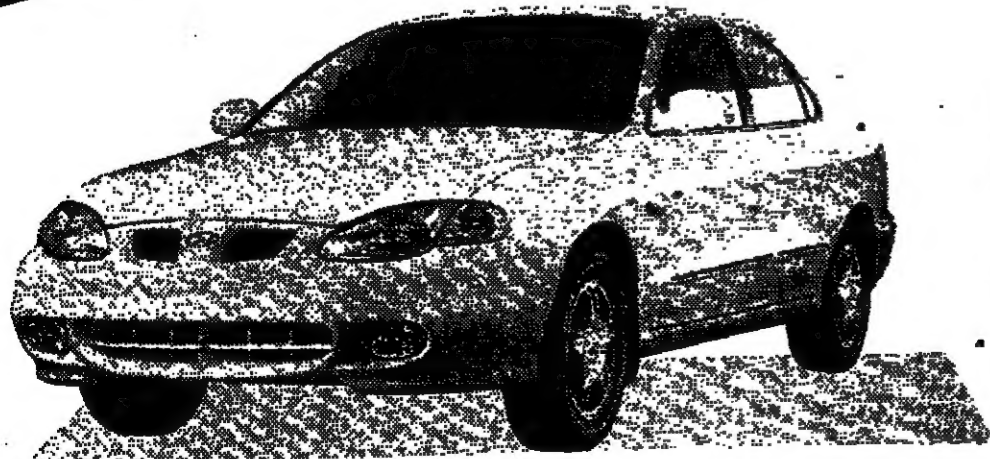
Gruper warned that unless the plan were implemented, Mekorot would have great difficulties in ensuring regular supplies of water for drinking and agricultural use to the areas in question.

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Moscow: From prosperity to austerity

By DANIEL WILLIAMS

Economic crisis has struck Russia's proud capital, and merchants working in open-air markets and posh shopping malls alike bemoan the disappearance of customers

MOSCOW — Until mid-August's collapse of the ruble, Moscow wore a mask of prosperity. It was a place where shortages of food and consumer goods had become a dim memory, where jobs were plentiful and where well-stocked storefronts, pricey restaurants and brightly lit billboards proclaimed an era of prosperity.

Now, in a matter of just a few weeks, Russia's proud capital has been humbled by the country's economic crisis. Dreary ghosts from the past have returned, like food hoarders and empty shop shelves. Once again, the arrival of a truck full of potatoes from the countryside is an occasion for an almost hysterical rush of buyers.

With the actual daily value of the national currency anybody's guess, dollar hunting has become a city sport, and foreigners are once again accosted on the street by black marketeers on the lookout for the coveted currency. For many Muscovites, the daily lineup of anxious clients at banks and money exchange houses recall the old Soviet days of bread lines.

Even Moscow's customary municipal swagger took a hit. This weekend's annual founders day festival has been reduced to a pitiful shadow of such anniversaries in the past. For lack of money, city hall even canceled the traditional fireworks display.

"You know things are bad here when they cancel the fireworks," said Dmitri Bogdanov, a shopper at the Dynamo Stadium open air market.

"Here, like we say, the mayor lights fireworks to celebrate sunrise, so you can imagine how it pained him to call this off."

THE DYNAMO market is an institution characteristic of capitalist Moscow. Beneath the socialist splendor of Stalinist apartment palaces all over the city lie scores of markets peopled by traders who haul in goods from Russia's frontiers or purchase imports from legions of wholesalers. Imports are Moscow's lifeblood.

Saturdays are big shopping days in Moscow, so it was easy to take the pulse of buyers and peddlers alike. Old women gazed open-mouthed at displays of cans of coffee priced at the equivalent of \$20 in rubles — rubles are now valued at about 17 to a dollar, up from less than seven in mid-August. Shoppers clucked



The daily lineup of anxious clients at banks and money exchange houses recall the old Soviet days of bread lines.

at Danish pig hearts on sale at 28 rubles a kilo, double the early-August price.

"The price will go up next week," said Mirab, a butcher from Azerbaijan. "Each day I have to adjust the price. And my supplier says that he doesn't know how long he can continue to bring in the products. People are buying less, he is running out of rubles, and of course the

Danes only want dollars."

Mirab said his customers are buying fewer, and cheaper, cuts of meat. "They say they will feed their families on only rice if they have to," he said.

Over at a row of mini-boutiques that sell Italian-made clothes, Nadezhda Subotina gloomily pondered a quandary: Sales are off, but she is reluctant to raise

prices and risk scaring off more customers; yet she needs more and more rubles to convert into dollars to buy imported clothes in the future.

"I already put \$23,000 down for the next season's fashions and I have no idea how I'm going to come up with the rest of the money to complete the purchase," she said. "I'm afraid my \$23,000 may

turn out to be a gift to the Italians."

Subotina and other merchants at Dynamo complained that the uncertainty about the future of the ruble compounds their problems.

"It's hard enough to set prices today, much less think about tomorrow," said Marina Zhurablova, who sells Barbie dolls.

Zhurablova said she used to sell about five Barbies a day, but now sells three. In dollar terms, she is making even less because she is reluctant to raise prices to the point where customers disappear entirely. "I'm in a trap and I can't get out until I know what the future holds," she said.

The crisp pre-autumn weather should signal brisk business for Vladimir Ivanov at his fur hat stall, but that is not the case.

Customers shy away from his products because they prefer to limit purchases to fulfilling basic needs, he said. "Is a fur hat the thing I buy in this situation? No, I buy flour and sugar. A fur hat is no good on an empty stomach," he said.

Consumer depression is not limited to workday Muscovites, it appears. The city's population of the new rich seems also to have put brakes on its spending. At the Manezh Square shopping mall, three underground levels of glamour shops, proprietors report falling sales.

"People come to look but not to buy for the moment," said a saleswoman at the Mercury jewelry store. "We believe that our usual customers will soon return. They are not the kind of people to be put off for long by higher prices."

Moscow's atmosphere of gloom has been thickened by a sharp change in the focus of consumer news published by the city media outlets.

Newspapers that only a few weeks ago issued dreamy advice on how to furnish homes and dress like model Naomi Campbell, now offer survival tips to the desperate. Last week, *Komsomolskaya Pravda* cautioned consumers to be careful when trading rubles on the street. Swindlers, the paper said, sometimes sack false bills in the middle of a pile of real ones. "As a rule, the swindler disappears faster than you can check out what you've been stuck with," the paper warned.

The Muscovite scramble to make ends meet led to one Keystone Kops incident last week right in the heart of the Kremlin. A government chauffeur for a visiting provincial governor decided to earn some extra money. While the provincial dignitary was at a Kremlin meeting, the driver roamed the city in the government limousine looking to pick up passengers needing a taxi. It is common in Moscow for motorists to moonlight as gypsy taxi drivers.

However, one of the fares turned out to be an automobile thief who forced the chauffeur out of the car at gunpoint. An all-points bulletin resulted in recovery of the car by traffic police two hours later. The chauffeur was fired.

(The Washington Post)

By JUANITA DARLING

PANAMA CITY — On a mercifully cool tropical night, toddlers, expectant mothers and white-haired seniors squeeze onto six lime-green benches, waiting for two secretaries type out complaints. Many giggle nervously at each burst of profanity issuing forth from behind the door to the detention area a few feet away.

On the other side of the door, half a dozen men are crowded into the single holding cell. Outside the cell, handcuffed to its bars, a naked, middle-aged woman shouts obscenities.

This is night court, Panamanian-style.

From dusk to dawn, these administrative courts mete out justice in bar brawls, family fights and other nocturnal altercations. They are among the few vestiges

of the US presence here that will not disappear when the US turns over the Panama Canal on December 31, 1999.

The Panamanian government instituted the courts during World War II, as US servicemen poured into this tiny country. When they weren't protecting the canal or training in the jungle, the soldiers and sailors supported a red-light district of bars and brothels. They got into trouble with the law so routinely that when courts opened in the morning, the jail cells were full.

Some of that trouble — including rape and arson — meant prison

sentences. But most of the crimes were simple matters of public drunkenness or fighting. Panamanian authorities decided that the best solution was an administrative court — without lawyers or much paperwork — where soldiers could cool off or sober up for a few hours in a holding cell, pay a fine and often get back to base before their passes expired.

"That way we did not have to make them prisoners and wait until the next day for a formal trial," said Miguel Moreno, a respected attorney who was a legal adviser to the Panamanian Foreign Ministry at the time. "Most of the

problems occurred in the red-light district where so many American soldiers went, so we put the night court nearby."

And that is where the court remains — even though the red-light district disappeared years ago and most of the defendants are Panamanian these days. The port city of Colon and raucous San Miguelito also have night courts.

"These are the areas that have the most conflicts," said Eliodoro Hernandez, the night court judge here. "The constitution says that justice should be uninterrupted, but the courts only work until 4 in the afternoon. So, here we are."

"Here" is a clean, spartan office with a metal, government-issue desk, four straight-back chairs and a bookcase. Hernandez, who has the second shift, arrives every night at midnight with a legal briefcase full of files and a thick copy of the administrative code.

For \$900 a month, he unravels family arguments, rip-offs and street bouts, any kind of conflict that does not involve more than a \$250 fine or leave someone so badly hurt that a doctor decides the victim needs at least 10 days off work to recover. Robberies, rapes and murders wait until morning.

"I see a lot of women with

swollen eyes," Hernandez said. "We try to take preventive measures."

That often involves referring families to counseling or requiring antagonists to sign a peace bond: an agreement that if either one starts another argument, the aggressor will pay a stiff fine. Those who cannot pay the fine do jail time.

The naked woman shouting obscenities at the court on a recent Friday night was clothed and taken to a psychiatric hospital for observation.

"Sincerely, this is not an attractive job," Hernandez said. "I

wanted to be a litigator, but there are 5,000 lawyers out there. I don't have the money to start my own practice, and I don't have the influence to get a job in a fancy firm." Although he mostly sees Panamanians, Hernandez does get an occasional soldier, such as the case right after the disturbed woman.

Earlier, the US sergeant and his Panamanian girlfriend had been brought into night court after US military police broke up a violent argument at their home on an army base.

After more than an hour, the erstwhile couple signed a \$200 peace bond. As they walked out into the nighttime breeze, the sleeping toddlers, expectant mothers and seniors were still there — along with others — waiting for night court justice.

(Los Angeles Times)

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Talks begin on new N. Ireland gov't

By SHAWN POGATNIK

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Protestant and Catholic leaders opened discussions yesterday on how to share power in a new government for Northern Ireland, beginning another chapter in their quest for compromise.

Eight party leaders — including Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble and Sinn Féin's Gerry Adams — gathered at the Stormont Parliamentary Building, within the British government complex, where they struck April's peace accord.

Their chief goal in coming weeks is to agree who should form a 12-member

administration, called the Executive, to be drawn from Northern Ireland's largest parties.

Most seats are reserved for Trimble's Ulster Unionists, the chief representative of the north's British Protestant majority, and John Hume's Social Democratic and Labor Party, which gets the most Catholic votes.

But all eyes were on relations between Trimble and Adams, whose IRA-allied party remains committed to unraveling Northern Ireland's union with Britain — and expects to receive two positions in the Executive.

Since being elected Ulster Unionist leader in 1995, Trimble has refused to talk directly

with Adams, arguing that the IRA first needed to start disarming as proof that it has really renounced its violent campaign to destabilize Northern Ireland.

US President Bill Clinton made Stormont his first stop last Thursday during his visit to Northern Ireland. While he appeared frequently alongside Trimble and emphasized the need for IRA disarmament, he also praised Adams' role in peacemaking.

On Saturday, Trimble announced he would meet Adams this week to discuss terms for Sinn Féin's participation in government. Also at that meeting will be Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of Hume's moderate party, which has long competed

with Sinn Féin for Catholic votes.

While April's agreement specified that the IRA should disarm under international supervision by mid-2000, it set no deadline for that process to start.

As he walked up the grand front stairway of Stormont today, Adams emphasized that it would "run totally contrary to the agreement" if Trimble used the outlawed IRA's arsenal as a way to block the legal Sinn Féin from taking its place in the Executive.

Northern Ireland's as-yet-powerless legislative Assembly must approve any proposed administration by a majority of both its Protestant and Catholic blocs, not just a bare majority.

African heads meet to end Congo civil war

By ANGUS SHAW

VICTORIA FALLS, Zimbabwe (AP) — African leaders gathered to seek an end to civil war in Congo worked yesterday to find a way to get both sides talking about peace.

Congo President Laurent Kabila has refused to meet face-to-face with rebels who now control a quarter of the country.

The rebels, who were not included at two previous summits over the past month, were to arrive later yesterday for the talks with Kabila, and the presidents of Angola, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Uganda, and Rwanda.

Angola, Zimbabwe, and Namibia have sent troops to Congo to support Kabila, Uganda and Rwanda back the rebels.

Officials huddled in meetings searching for a way to get warring factions to discuss a ceasefire, the withdrawal of foreign troops, and the establishment of a southern African peacekeeping force.

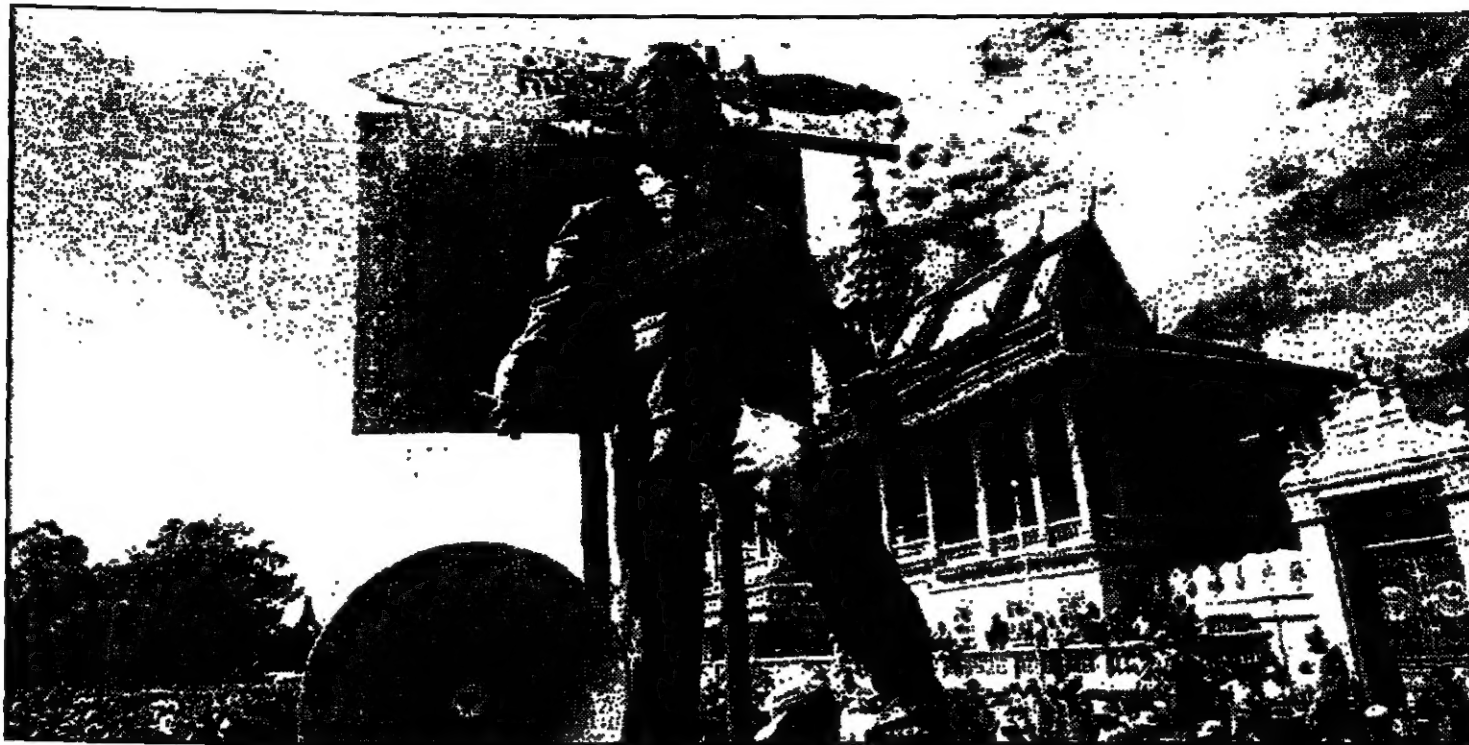
"This summit will bring a solution to the conflict," a confident Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos said when he arrived.

It appeared Zambian President Frederick Chiluba, the neutral chairman of the summit called by President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, might have to shuttle between the two sides to forge an agreement.

Zimbabwean officials said the rebel delegation will be led by Arthur Zuhairi Ngoma and will include former Congolese Foreign Minister Bizima Karasa.

Salim Ahmed Salim, the secretary-general of the Organization of African Unity, said the aim of the talks is to reach a cease-fire agreement that would insure the continuation of Kabila's government but also bring about democratic reforms.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said a crucial part of the discussion would be the formation of democratic reform in Congo.



An effigy of Cambodian leader Hun Sen is displayed outside the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh yesterday. (AP)

After grenade attack on his residence

Cambodian leader orders crackdown

By ROBIN MCDOWELL

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Accusing political opponents of a grenade attack on his house, Cambodian strongman Hun Sen yesterday ordered an end to protests against his rule and said his most ardent adversary would be arrested.

Military police fired hundreds of shots into the air to disperse about 600 people gathered outside a luxury hotel where politician Sam Rainsy, the main target of Hun Sen's crack-

down, was taking refuge. One man was killed.

Earlier, policemen guarding the hotel — apparently to prevent Sam Rainsy's escape — fired warning shots when diplomats from the embassies of Canada and Singapore drove away after meeting the opposition leader. No one was hurt and the cars departed without any damage.

Authorities said two grenades were thrown from one or two passing motorcycles over the gates of Hun Sen's residence in the capital.

No one was hurt and the only damage appeared to be a shattered window.

Contrary to earlier reports, Hun Sen said no family members were home at the time of the attack. He seldom stays there, preferring his fortress-like compound outside the capital.

In his public response to the attack, Hun Sen said there was "already a request" for the immediate arrest of Sam Rainsy, the chief leader of demonstrations against the government since disputed parliamentary elections July 26.

Key Democrats begin talking of impeachment

WASHINGTON — In another ominous sign for President Bill Clinton, one of the Senate's senior and most respected Democrats, Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York, said yesterday that the House and Senate need to take up the issue of impeachment — and soon.

Until now, most Democrats have suggested the president needs to apologize sincerely for lying to the nation about his sexual affair with former White House intern Monica S. Lewinsky, and perhaps, be censured in Congress for it.

But Moynihan, along with another Clinton loyalist in the House, insisted that neither an apology nor an official censure

will suffice.

"We have a crisis of the regime. You cannot have this kind of conduct as normal and acceptable and easily dismissed," Moynihan said on ABC-TV's *This Week*.

"What we have before us, and we ought to get on with it, is an impeachment procedure," he continued. Lawmakers "must not be afraid of it. It's provided in the Constitution. It's a very straightforward provision."

Although Moynihan stopped short of saying the president should be removed from office, he expressed the opinion that lying in a civil suit, or lying to the American public, is "an impeachable offense."

Comments by Moynihan and

other lawmakers suggest the president's support in Congress is eroding, even before independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr finishes what is expected to be a blistering

Starr's report casts long shadow, Page 8

report on Clinton's actions in the Lewinsky matter.

Last week, the White House was shaken when a Clinton ally, Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, D-Conn., rose on the Senate floor to condemn the president's behavior

as "immoral and disgraceful." Lieberman's denunciation signaled that key Democrats on Capitol Hill are not necessarily going to line up to defend the president or demand that the Lewinsky matter be put to rest now that Clinton has admitted his wrongdoing.

Still, Lieberman did not raise the prospect of impeachment. He said some kind of "public rebuke," such as a congressional vote to censure Clinton, "will be the maximum we will want to do to end this sad chapter in our history."

"My highest hope here is that President Clinton is able to repair

the damage that his misconduct has done and go on and end his presidency in two and a half years honorably and effectively," Lieberman said Sunday on NBC's *Meet the Press*.

But the prospect of a censure vote appears to be fading, with some Democrats and Republican lawmakers expressing concern that it would be too mild.

"I now don't think that [censure] is really an option," said Rep. James P. Moran, D-VA, a House moderate and Clinton supporter, on *Fox News Sunday*. "I think we're bound to go through with impeachment proceedings."

But the president was not with-

out his defenders.

"We were sent to Congress as legislators and not as marriage counselors," said Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-NY, on CNN's *Late Edition*. "Lying about adulterous acts are things that members of Congress really ought to say. 'Those without sin cast the first stone.'"

Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-NJ, described "a very fluid situation" on Capitol Hill in which opinions are changing quickly. Nonetheless, he insisted that lawmakers should continue to distinguish between private misbehavior and illegalities that would justify impeachment. (LA Times)

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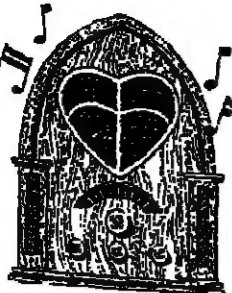
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Mac attack

In Tune



By David Brinn

For some reason, Fleetwood Mac's *Rumours* was a watershed for a generation of musical youth who cut their teeth on '70s rock. Unabashedly mainstream and commercial, the 1975 megahit nonetheless captured rock 'n' roll kids and pop purists alike with secret ingredients like Lindsay Buckingham's California harmony rock instincts, Christine McVie's

LEGACY - A TRIBUTE TO FLEETWOOD MAC'S 'RUMOURS'
Various Artists
(Filed Artists)

RIALTO
Rialto
(Filed Artists)

ONLY FOREVER
Purescence
(Filed Artists)

delicate British songwriting and Stevie Nicks' gold-dusted hippie persona. It also didn't hurt that the band was going through soap-opera relationship breakups and crises which found their voice on the album's sparkling, moving songs.

That's what makes this uneven Mick Fleetwood produced song-by-song tribute to *Rumours* a little disappointing. First of all, there seems to be no reason d'être for the existence of the disc. It's not for any charity like the highly acclaimed *Sweet Relief* series. And while its place as a solid-gold artifact of 1970s pop culture is right up there along *Saturday Night Fever*, the decision to honor it with a tribute, aside from pocketing more money for Fleetwood, is questionable.

The talent is there in abundance, with such '90s acts who listened to Mac in the cradle like Shawn Colvin, Goo Goo Dolls and matchbox 20 and those that weren't even born yet like Jewel offering up solid but unspectacular versions of their chosen songs. But '70s contemporary Elton John sinks on "Don't Stop" and the big hit on the video channels and radio, The Corrs' Irish rendition of "Dreams" reflects the feeling that the artists were afraid to meddle too much with the songs.

Diehard fans of Fleetwood Mac will want to hear this for the fun of it, but when they want a real Mac attack, they'll always go for the real thing.

FOR A better mix of old and new, check out two young British bands who show great promise. Rialto's press blurb about their self-titled debut describes them as "65 Beatles produced by Phil Spector instead of George Martin." That accolade may be a bit overblown; it's more like Pet Shop Boys get tough with guitars.

The pop exuberance the trio displays, full of hooks galore and highlighted by the single "Monday Morning 5:19," is undeniably British in nature. But their love of well-crafted guitar pop with an ambitious cinematic scope is something anyone can enjoy.

On tracks like "Unbelievable," the specter of Spector does indeed rise out of the shadows, suggesting that the band knows its history and is smart enough to build something new out of it.

PURESSENCE is darker, moodier and tougher than Rialto's sunny sounds. If Oasis and The Stone Roses combined forces, they might sound something like this quartet's sophomore effort, *Only Forever*.

The band tends to make everything larger and louder than life with mini-symphonic anthems. At times like on the manic "Street Lights" they achieve a crunching Who-like Pete Townshend sound, while on the closing track "Gazing Down" the ambitious changes and sophisticated beauty approaches Radiohead's atmospheric inspiration.

The band's songwriting may not be as strong as Rialto's, but their scope and the swooping vibrato of singer James Mudriczi raises them to another level.

However, both bands provide full discs worth of quality songs that prod rock along towards the millennium, no matter how derivative.



The Chippendales delivered if you were looking for the male physique. But their show didn't give value for money.

Tease fails to please

REVUE REVIEW

By SASHA SADAN

It's fun to go out and see naked men," said my date. And it was. The Chippendales delivered if you were looking for the male physique. The bodies were divine

THE CHIPPEDALES
Tel Aviv Port
September 5

and these guys repeatedly turned their backs to the audience, dropped their pants and bent over. High-definition buns and glorious hams beckoned. Their

timing was excellent. You just don't get to see that much.

Better yet, the men released their G-strings and turned toward the audience - after conveniently picking up capes and later towels to shield their private parts. And yet most of the evening wasn't as much fun as I wanted.

Complimentary plastic cups of wine were given out to get you in the mood to loosen up, and most of the audience responded as expected. By the finale nearly every woman was up on her chair, standing. Those close up to the stage were hoping to be picked - as a handful were - to come on up and participate, and those in the back were swaying to the music. The hall held 1,300 women. I saw the audience as mostly under 30, mostly tenderly young, dolled up,

decked out, and dipping back and forth like needles spinning towards a magnet.

But true magnetism was lacking. About half of the dozen-plus performers were dancers who didn't strip, yet they had more to offer than the boys who ran their hands down their thighs and chests. The zest and cleverness of their movements got you excited. You wanted to laugh and be teased.

Only two numbers took me a step further, into some kind of erotic zone. I responded to the guys done up in motorcycle leather, gleaming black studded with silver and with bare tushes sticking out. Maybe I was in a mood for a rough-tough look and yet that touch of vulnerability. I didn't think it funny when the

emcee asked for volunteers to be spanked. And women did volunteer.

The onanistic gestures in the James Bond and football locker-room sequences earned squeals. The one number I really liked was the one featuring guys in glistening white US Navy officers' uniforms. To see a man with a military hat who touches his brim in respect and salutes and then throws off his shirt and has his Paul Newman undershirt split off his chest seconds later - well, my pelvis responded. Just that once. The rest seemed overhyped. For the price, NIS 160 to NIS 180, I didn't get my rocks off, I didn't get that feeling of great entertainment. Isn't that what good burlesque is supposed to be about?

Changing the country's habits

By Maud Reldor



will forever change the country's concert-going habits.

Each evening offers the audience an intensive experience which leaves it awe-stricken. The opening night's "Homage to Jerusalem" with cellist Mischa Maisky delved into Max Bruch's *Kol Nidrei*, epitomizing Jewish music as the eternal man-God dialogue.

Then it was "The French Connection," concert of French music which featured an impressionistic touch, highlighted with

incredible performances by Daniele Damiano (bassoon), Hansjorg Schellenberger (oboe) and harpist

JERUSALEM INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL
Khan Theater
September 3 - 6

extraordinaire Margit Suss-Schellenberger.

In the "Songs Without Words" evening, the young violinist Renaud Capucon played Mozart's variations on the French song "Alas, j'ai perdu mon amour" in a style of quiet lamentation, while there was a lot of wit in the cello-violin dialogue between Maisky and Nikolaj Znaider in Beethoven's "Ich bin der Schneider Kakadu" trio. The concert's peak was an all-star performance of the "Trout" quartet by Schubert, which left the audience literally breathless,

and in which the lush and tender sound of Yefim Bronfman's piano should be especially mentioned.

The programs are well thought out, like the "White Nights," a musical journey through the so-called Russian mentality: from relatively light and contemplative Nocturne, by Roslavetz, to the rarely performed Piano Trio by Arensky, in which cellist Ramon Jaffe emerged as an emotional and sincere musician, to the ironic Prokofiev's *Souvenir de Florence*.

This festival appears to be an enriching experience for Israeli musicians as well. The Huberman Quartet played in the most vivid way when "reinforced" by the Swiss violinist Madeleine Carruzzo and the Italian cellist Rocco Filippini.

The vaulted Khan Theater offers the perfect venue for this feast, and its acoustics are quite good. Accolades must also go to the



Cellist Ramon Jaffe

Festival's artistic director Elena Bashkova, who not only created the intriguing program and managed to bring some of the world's greatest musicians to Jerusalem, but performing herself night after night and switching easily between the styles, emerged as a fine chamber pianist and a sensitive and supportive interlocutor to her musical friends.

When Hollywood's ghost town goes bust

By MARTHA DELLISLE

From the 1920s to 1950s, Hollywood studios shot hundreds of cowboy flicks at Paramount Ranch. In the years since, the deserted town's Wild West facade in the rugged Santa Monica Mountains northwest of Los Angeles has been the backdrop for only a handful of movies and TV series.

Gary Cooper, Mac West and Cecil B. DeMille once practiced their craft here.

Bears, bobcats, coyotes and rattlesnakes freely roam the dense, chaparral-covered hillsides peppered with white granite boulders that surround the town, giving the location a truly untamed feel. A dusty road winds through the center of town, past mercantile, gunsmith, saddlery and leather goods shops and a jail.

Hitching posts and watering troughs parallel the wooden walk-

ways in front of each weathered building's entry.

Cobweb-laced windows, some darkened by faded velvet curtains, tempt the curious to peek inside.

But instead of finding remnants of a once-flourishing boomtown, visitors see only the hollow interiors of empty shells that served to send movie and TV viewers back in time.

Most recently, Paramount Ranch was transformed into a 19th-century Colorado mining town for the filming of the now-canceled series, *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*, starring Jane Seymour.

For more than six years, cast and crew members worked out of air-conditioned trailers tucked under eucalyptus trees just outside of town to film the popular show.

But again, the town went bust when the CBS network cut the series unexpectedly in January. On a recent afternoon, workers tore down the last of the show's

extra sets and carried the debris away in trailer trucks.

As if part of a script, a turkey vulture circled overhead just as the demolition crew ripped apart the heart of the show: Dr. Quinn's cabin.

"I saw every episode," said Sue Buetow of Shakopee, Minnesota. "It makes me sick that it's being torn down," she said as a forklift sent the cabin's fireplace crashing to the dirt.

The ranch first became a film site in 1927, when Paramount Pictures purchased 2,400 acres of Rancho Las Virgenes. Its remote look, yet proximity just inside the "studio circle," made it an attractive location for the industry.

Between 1927 and 1948, 14 percent of Paramount's movies were produced at least in part at the ranch, and other film companies often leased the ranch.

Early silent films starring George Bancroft, W.C. Fields and

Fred Thompson were shot at the ranch. Later, Hopalong Cassidy, Buster Crabbe and Roy Rogers briefly made the town their home.

Paramount sold the ranch in the early 1950s. William Hertz, a Western movie fan, bought the site in 1953 and rebuilt the town into a permanent Western location using original Paramount props stored on the property.

In 1955, Hertz sold the ranch, and the area was subdivided several more times before the National Park Service purchased the property in 1980 for \$6 million. It restored the Western Town and has a manager who coordinates filming there.

"Part of the National Park's mission is to preserve our nation's cultural heritage," Alice Allen said. "We're preserving this site as a working motion picture ranch so it will still be there for our children." And for the occasional ghost. (AP)

NEWS

of the muse

By HELEN KAYE

Succot festivals

Succot and festivals go together like fish and chips. First off the block is the Beit She'an Festival (October 3 to 10) in the gorgeous Roman amphitheater. The program includes Luis Davila's Spanish Dance Theater with versions of *Carmen* and *Romeo and Juliet*, as well as Greek singer Glykeria.

Then there's the Acre Festival of Alternative Theater in the Crusader Fortress of Old Acre (October 5 to 8), with 22 brand-new plays, most about an hour long. Eight of the performances are free street-theater plays, and there will also be appearances by American juggler Lee Hayes and famous Spanish clown Leandre. T

The Haifa Film Festival has the same dates. The Storytelling Festival in Holon runs from October 7 to 10. One can hear four days of every kind of story told by all kinds of folks - unfortunately nary a one in English - with the state jubilee as its general theme.

Drummers make a Big Bang

The Parliament cigarette brand's unremitting support for the arts since 1992 is seen in this year's sponsorship of two groups of drummers - Olodum, from Brazil, and the Korean group Samulnori - who will perform in the *Parliament Arts Big Bang Festival*. Olodum is Yoruba for "towards the universe," and the 18-member group includes singers and dancers, as well as drummers. Their music is a tempestuous and sensuous blend of African, Brazilian and other Latino/Caribbean melodies and rhythms. They've been thrilling audiences since 1979.

Samulnori is Korean for "the elements" and its music gives an urgent contemporary twist to classical Korean melodies. The 20-year-old company has its roots in the bands of itinerant musicians who entertained the populace in the town square, banging away lustily on the gongs, drums and other percussion instruments that Samulnori plays today. There'll be two concerts on October 8 and 10 at the Roman Theater in Caesarea.

Haifa Theater fires Othello

The Haifa Theater has fired Juliano Mer, "this time for good," said a spokesperson. Mer, who played the title role in *Othello*, was dismissed following a too vigorous and impromptu stage slap of Sarit Lary in the role of Desdemona. Earlier this year, Mer was suspended following a similar incident with Maya Maoz, who left the cast rather than play opposite Mer. The actor maintains that his onstage excesses derive from his total immersion in the role, and that he does not mean to hurt his leading ladies. But "he's ruined his stage career," said a source in Haifa. Mer also has a successful career in film and TV and has recently finished *The Southern Beach*, a new TV series scheduled for an October debut on Channel 2.

Gesher Theater moves house

The nearly eight-year-old Gesher Theater will finally have a home of its own starting December 31 - the Noga Theater in Jaffa. Gesher started in Nahmani, the old Cameri Theater space, and then moved to a warehouse in the Old Jaffa port, which it converted into a theater. Rumors had been flying around about the imminent move but the Tel Aviv city council only decided officially at the end of August.

Zurich Ballet makes local debut

Choreographer Heinz Spoerli, whose talent lifted the Basel Ballet to world-class status during the 18 years he ran it, moved to Zurich in 1996 and introduced himself to the audience with *Goldberg Variations* set to Bach's music. The 46-member Zurich Ballet is now making its debut visit to Israel with *Goldberg Variations* and pianist Alexey Botvinnov will perform the music live. Two performances only at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center on October 22 and 23.

New manager for Batsheva

Naomi Bloch Fortis has been named the joint artistic director and general manager of Batsheva Dance Company. Fortis, who has been acting general manager since the July resignation of Ben-Ami Einav, was confirmed in the job by the unanimous decision of the BD public council. Fortis was previously the associate artistic director under choreographer Ohad Naharin, who was named the company's artistic director in 1990. Both Einav, who held the job for a year, and the previous general manager, Mira Idelfis, had hinted that working with the strong-willed Naharin was difficult. Fortis has a proven track record, but she has so far been subordinate to Naharin.

Rabbi saves 'Two'

THEATER REVIEW

This kind of dramatized document on the Holocaust is more suited to tourists and sympathetic outsiders than to

TWO

By Ron Elisis
The Tall Poppy Theater Company
Tel Aviv
August 30

Israelis. A densely worded dialogue that masquerades as a play, this postwar tale of the confrontation between a rabbi abandoned by God in Auschwitz and a penitent German Nazi who wants to convert is just too loaded with schmaltzy sentiment to swallow.

The play is brought to us by a company called "Israel's first professional English-speaking theater company." It most certainly is not a first of its kind. There have been

other English productions, that, if not much more laudable, were at least an attempt at more ambitious material than this drably staged production.

And the "professional" standard of the play is hardly evident, neither in the quality of the directing nor in the performance of the artistic director herself. It takes a lot of nerve - even hubris - to double as a director and leading lady. It takes a lot of luck, hard work and talent to get away with it. If Kelly Hartog possesses the latter, it hardly showed on this occasion.

Sami Karnal, on the other hand, a Jerusalem-born Arab and self-taught actor, was a tremendous hit in the role of defrocked rabbi. Not only did he delight with perfect Shakespearean-standard English diction (contrasting cruelly with Hartog's stilted delivery), his manipulation of a very wordy but intellectually stimulating text and his enchaning presentation of a maverick persona was excellent. Although marred by excessive melodrama and overacting, his performance saved the evening.

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Telephone 02-531-5666, Fax 02-538-9227, CIRCULATION - 02-531-5610, 1-800-222-2278, Fax 02-538-9017, ADVERTISING -
02-531-5608, 02-531-5638-40 Fax 02-538-8408, TEL AVIV: 5 Rehov HaMasger, POB 28398 (61283) Telephone 03-6390333,
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Problematic precedent

Great sighs of relief could be heard on both sides of the ocean following the Jerusalem District Court decision to allow the extradition to the United States of a teenage Maryland murder suspect. The Israeli and US governments, egged on by angry members of Congress, both wanted to find a way to extradite him. By finding the suspect extraditable, the court may have closed a diplomatic can of worms abroad, but at the expense of opening a legal one at home.

The decision by Judge Moshe Ravid is, by all accounts, a strange one.

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein had previously ruled that the Israeli citizenship of the suspect was in doubt, and the State Attorney's Office argued that he is not a citizen. The government argued that the suspect's father was granted citizenship by mistake, since his family had left the country in 1950 - two years after statehood, but two years before a law was passed granting all residents automatic citizenship.

If the judge had agreed with the government, the matter would have been legally straightforward, and the teenager would have been found an extraditable US citizen. Instead, the judge agreed with defense attorney David Liba'i, who argued that he is an Israeli citizen. Then, in a bizarre twist, Ravid found that despite this, he is extraditable because the "spirit" of the law requires - in addition to citizenship - "a connection to Israel."

The law, which was amended in 1978 to prohibit the extradition of Israelis who were citizens at the time a crime was committed, makes no mention of connection to Israel as a limitation on the protections of citizenship. In fact, until now, no legal distinction has ever been made between different types of Israeli citizens, based on an undefined quantity of "connection" to Israel.

Liba'i, not surprisingly, wondered aloud what the implications of this case would be for Israeli citizens abroad, asking: "Is their citizenship from now on a conditional citizenship?"

The teenager did have relatively tenuous connections to Israel, having been born and raised in America, and never having taken out an Israeli passport. He had visited Israel, in the judge's words, "as an observer." His father testified that he regarded him to be a US citizen, which he certainly is. Yet, it is difficult to understand the basis upon which the judge decided that he is an Israeli citizen, but not sufficiently so for the law prohibiting extradition to apply to him.

(The judge's further explanation only further

muddies the waters. According to Ravid, "An interpretation that rejects any limitation on citizenship will place obstacles before the wheels of justice." The fact, however, that a judge cannot find justice within the law does not give him the right to invent new provisions from whole cloth. In this respect, it is hard to imagine that the Supreme Court, to which this decision will be appealed, will accept the decision as is.)

Ironically, the arbitrariness of Ravid's decision lends credence to the initial unreasonable demands from members of Congress that the teen be handed over for trial, regardless of Israeli law. Such demands, including threats to cut US aid, were unwarranted in that they ignored the Israeli legal system, as if Israel were some arbitrary dictatorship in which the government could simply order the courts to ignore its own laws.

In practice, the judge did essentially ignore the law, but not because it was following the government's line. A befuddled State Attorney's Office decided to declare victory, even though it was reversed on the question of citizenship. As prosecutor Irit Kahn declared, "Israel attaches great importance to its extradition treaty with the US. The decision to extradite is a message to all Israeli citizens abroad that they cannot commit a crime and flee here to avoid punishment."

Actually, it is doubtful that this decision alone will suffice to change the law as the government wants and as is warranted. Even today's activist Supreme Court may be hard-pressed to uphold the ruling, which stretches the law beyond recognition. The decision should, however, help build support for a government bill that would go even further in the same direction.

The government bill, which was introduced in March and has already passed first reading, would provide for the extradition of Israeli citizens for crimes committed abroad if they were not Israeli residents at the time of the crime. Under the proposal, even an Israeli resident who committed a crime abroad could be extradited if the foreign government agreed to allow the suspect, if convicted, to be returned to Israel to serve any jail sentence.

This is a sensible approach which could conceivably be applied regarding any pending extradition request - including the teen's case - even though the crime was committed before the amendment of the law. The Knesset should move quickly to pass the government proposal, thereby improving the law, solving a diplomatic problem, and rendering Judge Ravid's problematic precedent largely irrelevant, all at the same time.

ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL!!!



5 years, 2 mistakes

YOSSI BEILIN

Five years after Israel and the PLO signed the Declaration of Principles, and with the fifth anniversary of the interim agreement approaching, we can draw some interim conclusions about the process that has changed the reality of the Middle East.

We are speaking, of course, of the conclusions of someone who sees in this process the greatest chance ever to turn us into a normal country, living at peace with its neighbors. This will then leave us free to realize the Zionist dream, which has yet to be fulfilled.

People who view Oslo as a synonym for disaster, who think the PLO cannot be a peace partner, who believe that it is impossible to achieve normalization in the region and that every concession to the Arabs is Munich, and that anyone who compromises is Chamberlain, have obviously drawn legitimate conclusions in advance, and don't need reality to help them conclude anything new.

In many ways, the success of the process has exceeded my initial expectations. Public support for the process remains consistent, with more than 50% of those surveyed supporting it in every poll taken since the agreement emerged. Binyamin Netanyahu could not have been elected if he hadn't committed himself to continuing the process, which he did just before the elections.

Oslo made peace with Jordan possible, paved the way for more normal relations with 13 of the Arab League's 21 members, and led to an economic boom that was unlike anything before or since.

The move of the PLO leadership, headed by Yasser Arafat, from Tunis to the territories went smoothly. Israel was finally able to get out of Gaza and the West Bank's large cities, the Palestinian Authority was set up, and an irreversible new reality was created.

On the negative side there have been several depressing developments: The massacre perpetrated

ally declare a Palestinian state, or to rely on the willingness of Netanyahu to eventually reach an agreement with them. Looking back, we should have made every effort to reach a permanent agreement at Oslo, which would have spared us this complicated interim agreement and proved that we could reach an accord without dividing Jerusalem, without having to absorb Palestinian refugees in Israel, without returning to the 1967 borders, and without uprooting settlements, but with the result most definitely a demilitarized Palestinian state.

The second mistake was in the area of public relations. It seemed to the "peace club" headed by Rabin, that the process we had initiated spoke for itself. We believed that everyone understood the connection between Oslo and peace with Jordan, economic stability, dropping unemployment and a rise in the standard of living.

We believed that even those on the Right understood our intentions - even if they did not agree with them - and that it was clear to them that we were taking advantage of a historic window of opportunity to prevent a serious strategic threat, by closing the circle of regional peace before the extremist states on the periphery armed themselves with weapons of mass destruction.

We were wrong. We did not know what was going on then in an innocent kindergarten in Herzliya, nor did we believe that anyone would take seriously Finkelstein's slogan that Peres would rededicate Jerusalem. When the Labor Party returns to power, there still won't be a final-status agreement, and it will have to have learned from its two earlier mistakes. It will have to make a supreme effort to reach a final agreement, with no delays, but to do so while explaining to, and conducting a dialogue with those who do not believe in its methods, but are prepared to accept the decisions of Israel's elected government.

But the truth is, we didn't try. The interim accord that was reached did not evolve from any ideological premise that we must first build mutual trust.

We knew very well that the interim period was bound to be extremely tense. We simply assumed it would be easier to get public support for an extended process than for sharp, immediate solutions.

In the end, however, these five years have not brought the two sides closer, but have distanced us and made the extremists more extreme; they have reduced trust between the sides.

Now, with no final-status agreement in sight, the Palestinians face a tough choice: either to unilaterally

ally declare a Palestinian state, or to rely on the willingness of Netanyahu to eventually reach an agreement with them.

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Out of line

EVELYN GORDON

those who will shortly be their political masters.

The IDF being Israel's favorite sacred cow, this suggestion usually elicits angry cries of denial. Yet generals are only human, and the temptation to accommodate those who can affect your future career is a very human one. To say that it could never happen is willful blindness.

A second problem, however, is that even if senior officers do not actually allow their decisions to be influenced by politics, their instant conversion into politicians still allows them to be perceived as politicized. From the point of view of public trust in the army, this is as great a threat as actual politicization.

Public trust in the army is especially important in Israel, where the institution plays a major role in every citizen's life. The IDF is a people's army. Most men not only do compulsory service when young but remain reservists for years thereafter and the army depends on this manpower. It is therefore crucial that the IDF be a place where everyone, of any political stripe, feels comfortable serving. If senior officers are suspected of twisting the army's role to serve their political ends, motivation to serve will decline.

Furthermore, if part of the public believes the generals are motivated more by political than by security concerns, this is a recipe for confrontations between civilians and the IDF, and for even greater polarization in a country that is already too divided.

The classic illustration of all these problems is Ehud Barak and the army's role in the Oslo Accords. Even had Rabin not given senior IDF officers a com-

pletely unacceptable role as hands-on negotiators, the army would still have had to be involved in the process, through making security evaluations and recommendations.

It was therefore important that these recommendations be accepted by the whole country as stemming from an objective assessment of Israel's security needs, rather than seen as tailored to the Labor government's political conceptions.

The fact that Barak leapt so quickly into a seat in Rabin's cabinet, however, made it easy for opponents of Oslo to charge that he was tampering with security considerations to ensure his political future. If these accusations were true, the grave consequences for Israel's security are obvious.

But even if they were not, the fact that Barak acted in such a way as to make them believable made an already explosive and divisive debate much worse, by encouraging part of the public to think its safety had been thrown to the winds for the chief of staff's political benefit.

Shahak, for his part, was one of Rabin's chief negotiators during Oslo. The sight of Labor offering him the Defense Ministry a mere month after his retirement thus lends color to the same suspicions. The fact that these suspicions might be totally unfounded makes them only slightly less damaging.

For the sake of their own reputations, senior army officers should be the first to call for a law requiring a cooling-off period before they enter politics. A few MKs, such as Ruvlin (Likud) and Shlomo Ben-Ami (Labor), have publicly espoused such legislation, but so far, nothing has happened. It is time for such legislation to finally be enacted. There are already far too many issues dividing the nation. It does not need any more ugly debates about the political motivations of its army.

Oligarchy of thieves

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

Why are we playing doctor to Russia? What was President Clinton doing over there in the middle of an economic collapse urging Russians to endure even more bitter economic medicine?

Seven years ago, the American policy of urging unbending capitalist reform made sense. We didn't know where Russia was going. It was still possible that it would turn from a Communist enemy into a strong, free-market, democratic partner.

We now know this is not going to happen. Russia has turned into something rather different. It is a democracy in form, having elected a president and a Duma. But for seven years it has been decidedly authoritarian.

Almost all power has been vested in a president who routinely ignored parliament and ruled by decrees.

It happens that the president is our guy and that parliament is dominated by communists. But the fact remains that we have given lip service to real democracy. We've done so in the name of free-market reform.

But seven years have produced not a free market but what Grigory Yavlinsky, one of the country's leading democrats, calls "a corporatist and criminalized sort of capitalism." An oligarchy of barons, having in effect stolen a huge part of the Soviet patrimony, rule - and rob - the country, while the general economy sinks into oblivion.

Clinton flies into this swamp, and what does he do? Urges Russians to stay the course. To endure more pain - because "I do not believe there are any painless solutions."

To pay their taxes - to a kleptocracy understandably unable to collect any. To repay their foreign creditors - in a country where school-teachers and coal miners and soldiers have gone unpaid for months.

This may be sound economic advice. But why should we be giving it?

The short-term effects will be devastating for ordinary Russians. Why should an American president invite blame for inflicting the kind of pain that Yeltsin himself - let alone the Duma - does not dare advocate?

Moreover, why should we be more interested in the success of Russian capitalism than the Russians themselves? Clearly, by electing a parliament that is overwhelmingly anti-reform, the Russians are saying something.

If Russia wants to renationalize industry, default on foreign loans and return to some kind of semi-command economy, why should we stand in the way?

The result will be a weak, declining Russia. In the long run and in the coldest geopolitical terms, this is not a bad outcome for us.

If the Russians choose the easier path - a government-controlled and subsidized economy that recalls once-common Latin American-style autocracy and stagnation - that is their choice. It will produce a feeble Russia less able to rebuild its military, threaten its enemies and challenge the United States.

Why is that bad for us? One reason, you say: loose nukes. We really do not want a country with 7,000 active nuclear warheads in collapse and disarray.

True, but collapse and disarray are going on now. The anger in the streets and anarchy in the air are a direct result of the failure of the very reforms that we are urging and the Russian people are resisting.

There is today no government in Russia. Why? Because parliament is so opposed to Yeltsin's program that it will not even approve his nominee for prime minister. His authority so diminished that he dares no longer to rule by fiat. Yeltsin will in the end have to acquiesce to some form of government of national unity that includes communists and other anti-reform elements.

Ironically, such a government will be more democratic - more representative, more reflective of the popular feeling, less in need of decree - than the one Russia has now. It will command more legitimacy and popular support. Its actions will be less likely to produce the kind of anarchy and breakdown the loose-knit crowd so fears.

This is not, of course, the optimal outcome. The best would be a strong, growing, democratic Russian ally. But that is by now a fantasy.

If the Russians want to choose the mediocrity and gradual decline that comes with more state control, who are we to say no? Why go to Russia and advocate surgery without anesthesia? If they are going to suffer - and they surely are - let it be by a means of their own choosing.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DISLIKE OF SCHOOL

Sir - With unmistakable joy, Israeli schoolchildren learned that school was not going to start on September 1.

No children regret the strike. Few children in classes above the lowest grades enjoy school. Many patently hate it. It seems that the whole school system must reassess its priorities.

This sadly contrasts to my early teaching years at White Hart Lane School in North London, UK - a large inner-city high school with more than its fair share of social problems.

Dr. Fishlock, the then-principal, often pointed out that the "children enjoy being with us...they know we care for them." A visit to the typical Israeli teachers' room will reveal - sandwiched between gulps of coffee - tension, terse exchanges, and last-minute races to the photocopy machine. This strain carries over to the classroom - witness the ribaldry and the pathetic scenes of teachers trying to teach over class noise.

In Israel, teachers are rewarded according to the number of years of experience. They receive bonuses for higher degrees whether related to their job or not. Quality teachers rarely remain in the classroom for any length of time, but they find themselves as better-paid educational administrators.

A homeroom teacher with a BA who teaches full time will earn a gross salary of NIS 4,541 after 10 years in the classroom ("How

much do teachers make?" September 2). This means that many potentially excellent teachers and role models opt for callings that are better paid, if less socially useful. Others start out as idealists.

Soon, however, they find themselves having to teach (in two or more schools) twice the number of hours of a full-time post. Such demands leave little spare energy for creativity and bringing out the best in children as unique individuals.

In sharp contrast to my experiences in the UK, few actually enjoy teaching. Who at the end of recess hasn't seen the principal viciously chasing teachers back to the classrooms?

The system must urgently seek to keep good teachers in the classroom. It may do this by increased financial rewards for consistently proven quality teachers, such as is now becoming the case in the UK.

The new direction should be quality, rather than quantity of education. Imaginative teaching needs to replace topic-test-topics. Students ought to feel they are in communities that genuinely care for them.

Schools must aim to become places where children should be proud to belong and pleased to spend time.

JACOB SOLOMON

Jerusalem.

WEIZMAN SHOULD GO

Sir - Perhaps someone with a shred of human kindness in their veins would suggest to President Weizman that the time for his retirement is now, while his career in the air force is remembered with respect.

IRENE HEILBRUNN

Jerusalem.

CATHOLIC RESPONSIBILITY

Sir - It is an accepted fact that all firms put their logo on their stationary, vans, and containers etc. to advertise and make clear their ownership of, and responsibility for, their product.

It is thus absolutely reasonable for Catholics to put crosses up at Auschwitz. After all, it is their teachings that were the basic cause of the murders carried out there. Why should we try to dispute their claims?

JUDITH WYNICK

Rehovot.

HEAVEN HELP US

Sir, - I'm sure that Bernard Wasserstein's piece, "Mixed marriage: A mitzva" (August 24) was written tongue in cheek.

Certainly, he can't be serious. If so, indeed Heaven help us!

SHANEE HERUT

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On September 8, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported the publication of the long-awaited "Municipal Corporations Bill." It occupied 58 pages of the *Palestine Gazette Extraordinary*. There were separate provisions for Tel Aviv which had male and female suffrage, unlike the rest of the country. The High

Commissioner had wide powers, including the appointments of the mayors and deputy mayors and of additional councillors.

50 years ago: On September 8, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that the UN "real truce" in Jerusalem was shattered by the heavy guns of the Arab Legion

bombarding various Jewish quarters. The Arabs wanted to conquer Jerusalem by "blood and fire" rather than accept the city as a gift from the Mediator, according to an announcement made by Azmi Nashashibi, director of Ramallah radio.

Alexander Zvielli

صوتنا من الداخل

Is homosexual 'conversion' possible?

Thousands of Americans say they have freed themselves from a lifetime of 'self-destructive behavior,' sparking an explosive controversy that has pitted gay activists against former gays. Vanessa Furlong reports

Josh Handschuh, who calls himself an "ex-gay," says he always felt more comfortable cooking with the women than talking with the men when his family got together.

"I still love to bake," he said, but now that he has gone through a program called sexual conversion he has learned "to move from the kitchen to the living room during family functions" and become more involved in male conversations.

Handschuh is one of thousands who say they have left the gay lifestyle forever, a claim that has sparked an explosive controversy in the United States.

"Gay for life?" appeared on the August 17 cover of *Newsweek* magazine. The issue featured John and Anne Paik, a formerly gay couple, now married, who are proving to be the poster children of the "transformation" movement.

While organized groups of ex-gays have been around since the early 1970s, only recently did they become the focus of a fierce polemic.

"I was driven from one bar to the next in search of sexual fulfillment. To have release from that bondage is incredibly freeing"

— Josh Handschuh

In June, Senate Republican Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi called homosexuality a sin, likening it to an addiction such as alcoholism or kleptomania. His remarks caused a fire storm that was fuelled by an ad campaign by religious and conservative groups arguing that homosexuality is reversible.

In that climate, gay activists were pitted against former gays in a controversy with religious and political overtones.

WHILE conversion theorists attribute homosexuality to environmental influences alone, gay activists contend its origins are primarily biological. Medical and mental health organizations focus on a combination of biological and environmental factors as the causes of homosexuality.

"We just don't know the causes," Doug Fazel, spokesman for the American Psychological Association, said.

Handschuh, 25, turned to the Washington-based Transformation Ministries three years ago when he was unable to reconcile his homosexual behavior with his religious faith.

"I was driven from one bar to the next in search of sexual fulfillment. To have release from that bondage is incredibly freeing," he said.

Handschuh described his "transformation" to heterosexuality as an ongoing process, but said he does not see it as a life-long struggle. He attributed it to fierce determination coupled with the program at Transformation, which focuses on studying the Bible and exploring the childhood "roots" of homosexuality.

Transformation is one of more than 120 formerly gay ministries affiliated with Exodus International, a Christian-based support group that claims to have ushered thousands of sexually "disoriented" individuals back to their heterosexual selves.

Critics are quick to point out that its founders, Michael Busse and Gary Cooper, left the group after falling in love.

Exodus claims sexual reorientation is possible through reparative therapy, a healing process pat-

terned after the 12-step programs used to treat illnesses such as alcoholism.

Other groups follow slightly different programs, including Homosexuals Anonymous, a Christian organization that offers support rather than therapy, but has the same goal.

KNOWN also as conversion therapy, reparative therapy addresses what ex-gay groups identify as the

root causes of homosexuality.

These include an estranged relationship with the parent of the same sex, over-bonding with the other parent and sexual molestation or rape. Participants attend weekly group and one-on-one meetings and socialize together.

Jim Hanes, assistant director of Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays (P-FOX) in Washington, said of the first meeting he attended at

Transformation Ministries: "I was reborn."

Hanes, who has been in the counselling service for just over a year, credited the organization with not only helping him find his true sexual identity but also curing him of his pornography addiction. He said he is now attracted to women and plans to marry his girlfriend of nine months.

His sentiments were echoed in a recent series of ads saying homosexual behavior can be cured through Christian counselling and faith in Jesus. The \$200,000 drive was bankrolled by 15 Christian and conservative groups including the Christian Coalition and the American Family Association.

Full-page ads offered testimonials from "thousands of former homosexuals" who claim to have freed themselves from a lifestyle of "self-destructive behavior." "If you really love someone, tell them the truth," a July *Washington Post* ad read.

GAY rights groups were outraged. While the ads "profess a public service message, they are overtly political," said David Smith, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, the largest US gay rights group.

Smith said this year's congressional elections were the primary motivation responded with their timing.

Gay activists responded with their own ad campaign. "If you really love someone, you'll fight for their right to live with dignity and fairness," one read. Another featured Dave and Ruth Waterbury with their lesbian daughter, Margie. The caption said "Our lesbian daughter is the apple of our eye."

Scott Melendez-Stewart, an "ex-

"If you really love someone, you'll fight for their right to live with dignity and fairness"

— gay activists' ad campaign

ex gay," described his experience at Homosexuals Anonymous with mixed emotions. While he found the group to be "a very open, welcoming accepting environment," he was uncomfortable with what he described as the stereotyping of gender roles.

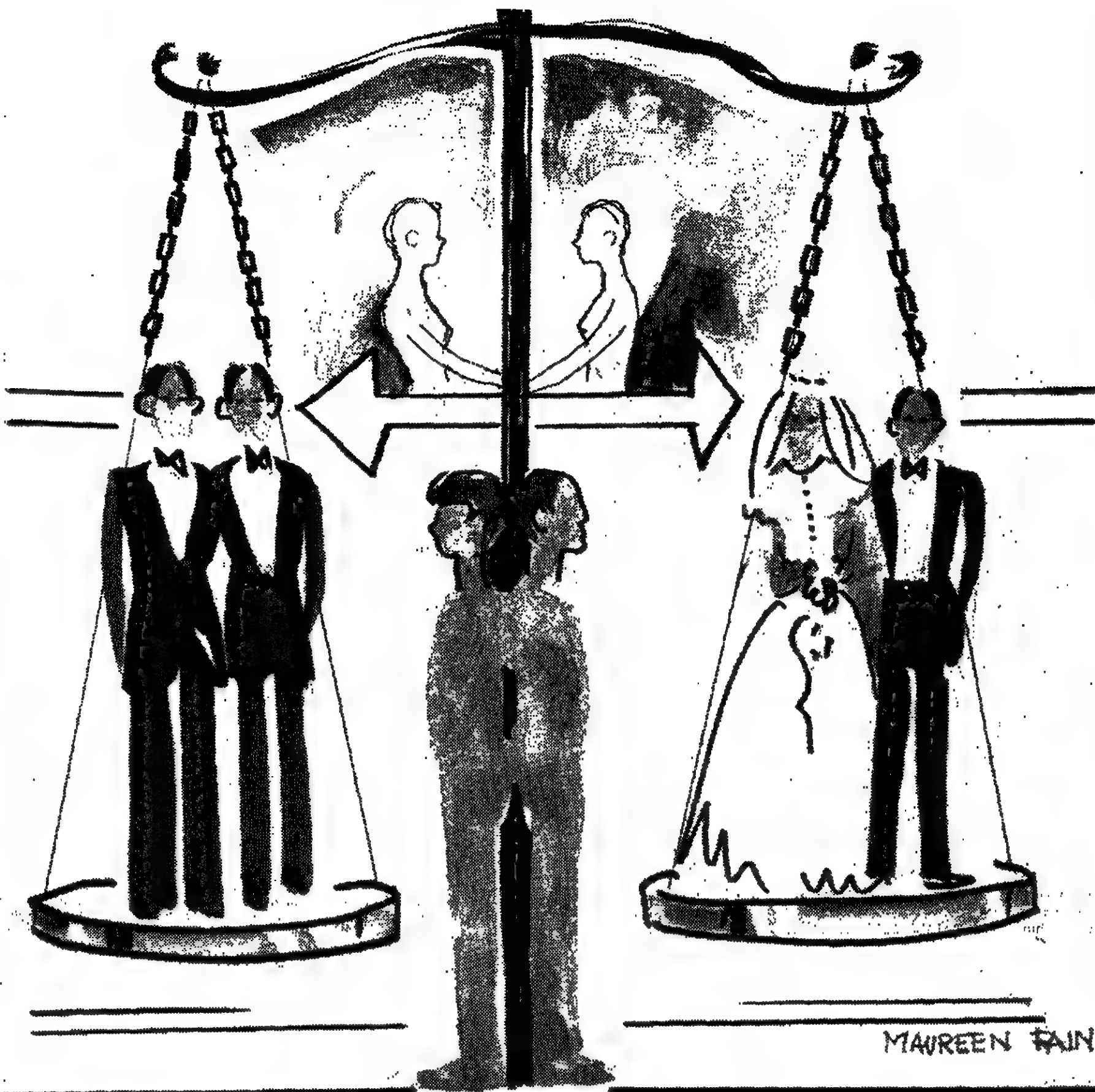
He recalled the time male members of the support group were advised to stop watching the Joan Rivers talk show because it was a "very homosexual show." He also remembered a woman firefighter who was urged to leave the profession because it was "manly and lesbian."

Others had negative experiences with ex-gay groups. "I have never seen anything like love or compassion or caring come from these people," said Chris Camp, an "ex-gay" who jokingly refers to himself as "Dos Equis," Spanish for two X's.

Both sides agree the term "ex-gay" is ambiguous. Some define it as heterosexual, but others, like Handschuh, say being an ex-gay means "at the bare minimum you are not acting on your impulses, with the ultimate cure... being comfortable with who God created you to be — a man or a woman — and not feeling that you need something sexually from the same sex."

Whether reorientation programs succeed is debated by both sides of the controversy.

Douglas Haldeman, past president of an American Psychological Association group that studied lesbian, gay and bisexual issues, said a scientifically credible study on reorientation was "very unlikely." Even the landmark American Psychiatric Association decision to drop homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses failed to bring the two sides to a consensus on the issue, he said. (Reuters)

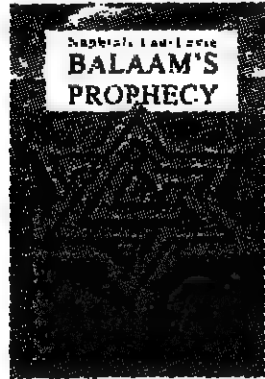


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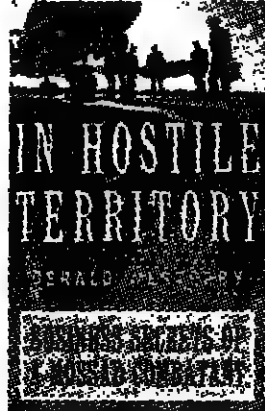
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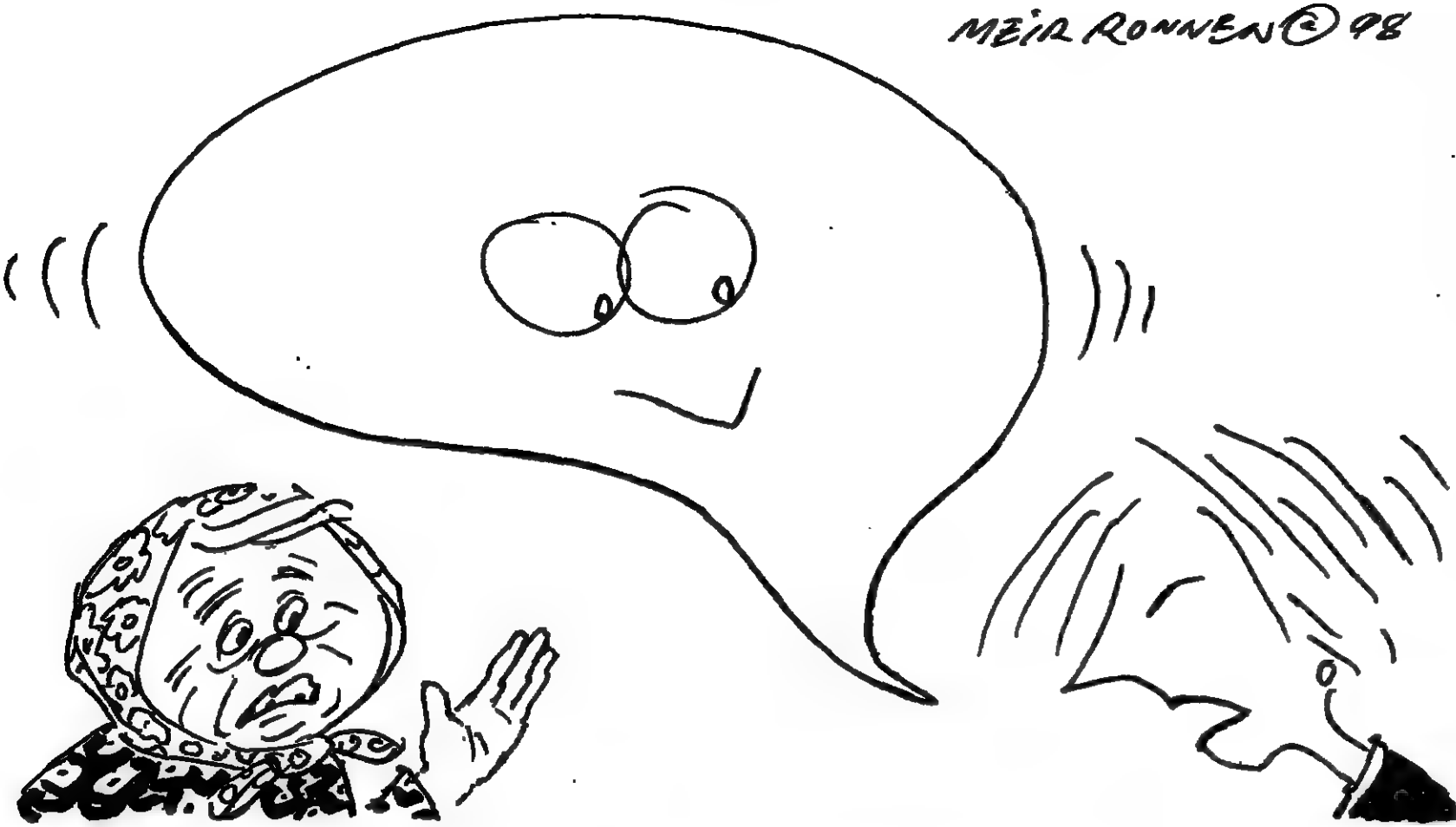
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Aahh... aahh... aahhchoo! — and why we say 'Bless you'

MEIR RONNEN © 98



That compulsive response to anyone who sneezes began far, far back in time, when people thought their souls could escape through their noses, Gerald Renner learns

It happens everywhere — on the street, shopping, at the movies. You sneeze and people around you, perfect strangers, feel a compulsion to say, "God bless you!" or simply "Bless you!"

If you have been schooled in polite behavior you will respond, "Thank you." You can't escape it. Salutation on sneezation — what happens when the inside of your nose tickles — is universal.

"Gesundheit!" say Germans. "Yarhamak Allah," say Arabs. "Tihai mauri ora," say Polynesians of the South Pacific. Where did this street theater of social etiquette come from? It came from a long way back, from the time of the ancient Romans and Greeks — and even earlier.

It comes from the idea that you are sneezing out your soul," said Moira Smith, librarian at the Folklore Institute at Indiana University in Bloomington.

In primitive belief, the soul, which animated every living thing, was flighty, she said. You could be alive one minute and dead the next if you weren't careful about the soul flying off.

"There are a lot of ancient

beliefs in general about a separable soul. It could separate for a brief period of time. When you dream, your soul is out of your body so it can't get back in if you're sneezing," she said. Even yawning posed a danger.

Smith pointed out that the idea of invoking divine protection in a sneeze was documented as early as the first century by the Roman naturalist, Pliny the Elder.

Pliny wrote in his *Natural History* in 77 A.D.: "Why is it that we salute a person when he sneezes — an observation which they say Tiberius Caesar, who as we all know was the most unsocial of men, used to exact, even when riding in his chariot?"

The beginning of the practice is lost in the mist of prehistory.

Coupled with the idea of the soul getting away was the fear

that an evil spirit could enter the body through the mouth or nostrils and steal away an unguarded soul. That made a blessing doubly necessary.

The Golden Bough: A Study in Magic and Religion, the monumental 13-volume compendium of superstitions by Sir James George Frazer, devotes a whole section to "the perils of the soul."

A MORE up-to-date variation on the theme of the dangers of sneezing has been the notion that the heart stops when you sneeze — and everybody knows what happens when the heart stops.

In case you were wondering, the heart does not stop when you sneeze.

"It does not stop whatsoever," said Dr. Jose Missri, chief of cardiology and chairman of the

department of medicine at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford, Conn. He said he, too, has been curious as to why people say "Bless you!" when someone sneezes.

Professor Robert V. Blystone, who teaches biology at Trinity University in San Antonio sees a common thread running through concern about sneezing.

"In a world without antibiotics, a sneeze could mean the start of an illness which could kill," he said. There were "no magic bullets to take care of the aftermath of the early warning system called a sneeze."

Blystone's comments were made partly in an interview and partly in a discussion among biologists on the Internet responding to a plea from a colleague for help.

"Can anyone help me with this question?" asked Professor Deborah M. Langsam of the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. "I usually don't have any trouble with the 'bacteriology' questions I get via e-mail, but this one has me stumped!"

The question, from a biology student, was: "I was just wondering why people say 'Bless you!' when someone sneezes. Is it because your heart stops when you sneeze, or is it because it was once believed that your soul left your body when you sneezed?"

Langsam commented, "A lot of cultures seem to have this sneezing thing...."

"I think the student is right that, in some cultures, it had to do with danger to the soul — but the concern, from what I understand, is that sneezing caused the body to be unprotected so that evil spirits or demons could enter."

Her plea prompted a flurry of responses.

The consensus was there are no really wrong answers. It all depends on what your grandmother told you.

(The Hartford Courant)

GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASIMAN

The party's over for comedienne Hannah Laszlo and her second husband, businessman Benny Bloch, whose cosmetics enterprise she helped to promote. After four-and-a-half years of a much-publicized and turbulent marriage, the couple are about to call it quits. Divorce proceedings have been initiated by Laszlo through her lawyer, Benny Don Yehya.

HEARTBREAKING though it was for Kochava Mordechai to leave her three-month-old son, Yovel, behind, an official, red-carpet trip to China with her husband, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, was just too tempting to resist. So Kochi left the baby with her mother and had a great time shopping for silks and other gorgeous souvenirs when hubby was busy with official business.

IT'S going to cost Moshe Dadash, chairman of the Betar Jerusalem soccer team, a pretty penny to marry off his daughters. Dadash, who has four, last Tuesday footed the bill for the multi-course dinner to which 1,200 guests were invited upon the marriage of his daughter Michal to Adi Perry. Another of his daughters is due to tie the knot in a couple of months.

The event at Teddy Hall in the Jerusalem International Convention Center complex brought together a large mosaic of politicians, soccer players, fashion models, showbiz personalities, business leaders and other celebrities, including Israel's ambassador to France, Eliahu Ben-Eliassur, who, with his wife Nitza, made a surprise appearance. Other guests included Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv mayors Ehud Olmert and Ronni Milo, and former chief of general staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and his broadcaster wife Tali. Also there was film tycoon Yoram Globus, Cellcom president Ya'acov Perry and his wife Edna, and, of course, the whole of the

Shimon Samuels is the Paris and International director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, and the supremely elegant Graciela Samuels has had a long career with UNESCO. Relatives, friends and colleagues flew in from many parts of the globe.

SCORES of people made their way to the Jerusalem apartment of former Californians Sarelle and Jay Cohen to purchase an autographed copy of *Then and Now*, the latest book of short stories by prize-winning artist and author Leah Alm Globe. The cover of the book features two of Globe's paintings. It's not all that rare for an artist to write, or for a writer to paint, but it is a little unusual for someone who's less than two years short of her 100th birthday to embark with such enthusiasm on a new project.

The launch of the book could not have come at a better time for one of Globe's granddaughters, Savyon-based lawyer Jodi Pat and her husband Daniel, who at the same date celebrated their 11th wedding anniversary. It was Pat who originally urged her grandmother to have the stories published. For the mentally and physically energetic Globe, there was added cause for fulfillment. Three days earlier, her eldest granddaughter, Menucha Quint Chwat, presented her with her 20th great-grandchild.

AFTER more than half a century of local and international organizational activity — most of it at leadership level — one would imagine that Tel Aviv socialite Raya Jaglom would not be easily impressed. But for Jaglom, executive member of the World Jewish Congress who was in Russia last week for the dedication in Moscow of a synagogue and Holocaust memorial, it was a "surrealistic" experience. The reason: In 1964, when Russian Jews were isolated from their brethren around the world, Jaglom led a WIZO mission to Russia. Comparing those dark days with the glittering festivities surrounding the dedication attended by President Boris Yeltsin, Jaglom could only gasp in wonder. The only thing not to her liking was the lavish banquet with kosher food flown in from Strasbourg. Given Russia's plummeting economic fortunes, Jaglom considered the gala affair tasteless. Not so the Russians, who gorged with gusto.

WHEN your grandfather is proprietor of the hotel in which your birth is being hailed and you happen to be his first grandchild, it's in the cards that there's going to be a super spread. Yael Appelbaum, daughter of (Amnon) Marc and Lea Appelbaum of Jerusalem, may not remember her first party — but lots of the guests will. Yael is the first granddaughter of Sue and Rami Ela, whose family owns the Caesar Hotel chain. Her mother is one of four daughters; her father one of four sons. Her paternal grandparents, Rhea and Joseph Appelbaum of Rehovot, have already promised to spoil her rotten, and her doing uncles are already competing for smiles from the first girl in the family. Yael's great-grandparents Rosalind and Philip Groob are also excited by the sugar-sweet addition to the family, whose roots are primarily in the US, Italy, Kurdistan and Hungary.

If the clemency appeal of *Ma'ariv* publisher Ofer Nimrod against his eight-month jail sentence is successful, it will confirm the belief of those who believe that there is one law for the rich and influential and another for the poor. Fashion designer Tovele Hasson is doing community service at Ichilov Hospital after being convicted of tax evasion on the sale of her high-priced garments — but she wasn't put behind bars. Amos Mar-Haim, deputy chairman of the Israel Corporation, who was convicted for cheating on his taxes to the tune of NIS 2 million, will also be doing community service and will continue to sit on the boards of numerous public companies, from which he derives a huge monthly income. The Israel Corporation, from which he earns NIS 200,000 a month, has just given him a NIS 50,000 raise. Felons of lesser fame with fewer contacts in high places usually wind up in prison.



Laszlo: going solo again

Betar Jerusalem soccer team, who missed out on their practice session in order to be spruce for the wedding. Hapoel Jerusalem was also well represented by chairman Victor Yona and coach Yossi Mizrahi.

KIRYAT Shmuna newlyweds Lilah Peretz and Eitan Maman, whose nuptials a week earlier were disrupted by Katyusha rockets, continued with the festivities last Thursday — this time without any life-threatening intrusion. Kibbutz Dan donated its premises free of charge, and most of the reception was paid for by President Ezer Weizman, who honored a promise he made to the Mamans when he visited Kiryat Shmuna the day after the Katyusha attack. The Mamans will really have something to tell their grandchildren.

THERE was a distinctively feminist thread in the ceremony uniting Shabar, daughter of Shraga and Esther Hecht, and Lior, the son of Miriam and the late Binayamin Neiger. Officiating under the bridal canopy in the garden setting of Hebrew Union College Jerusalem, was Rabbi Eilat Rimona who, unlike most other rabbis, did not take it for granted that the guests were familiar with the proceedings, and explained each step as she went along. The *ketuba* (marriage contract) was designed by the groom's mother, who is an artist. The bride's mother, a senior writer with *The Jerusalem Post*, often writes on women's issues. Both bride and groom made commitments to each other of lifelong love, tolerance and generosity, and each stamped on a glass and broke it at the end of the ceremony.

YET another wedding, one with a distinctly different flavor, took place on the same night, alongside the lake in the Rose Garden opposite the Knesset. In a traditional Italian ceremony, Michal, daughter of Graciela and Shimon Samuels, married Emanuele, the son of Nicoletta and Emilio Ottolenghi. The couple met in a cafeteria when he asked her to pass the salt, and she replied that the container he was reaching for contained pepper. With this well-seasoned start romance developed quickly, providing an excellent reason for Michal's parents, who have lived in Paris for the past decade, to relocate to Jerusalem.



Mordechai: left baby with mom (David Rubinger)

How can I get women to humiliate me?

Dear Ruthie,
I am a masochist. My greatest pleasure is being humiliated by a woman, preferably by being defeated in a wrestling match and winding up under her feet. My problem is, how can I practically achieve such a situation with any of my female acquaintances?

Mulling Masochist
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Mulling,
Though what you are talking about, I assume, is a sexual preference, the fact that you define yourself as a "masochist" would suggest that your penchant for wishing to be wrestled to the ground and dominated is not restricted to the bedroom.

If you examine the relationships you've had with women up until now, you are likely to notice a pattern. Pay attention to whether this pattern involves a high degree of self-denigration on your part.

One area in which this may express itself is money, for example. Maybe you are

attracted to women who have or earn more money than you; or perhaps women are "strict" with you about your spending.

Another area is behavior. Ask yourself whether women tell you how to dress, or otherwise groom or conduct yourself. Or whether they put you down in public in word and/or deed. Or whether you find yourself humiliated by them on a regular basis.

Another possibility is the flipside of the sadism-masochism coin. Perhaps, in your daily life, it is you who behaves like a dominating male in all of the above categories (i.e. being overly critical of or tyrannical in relation to women and showing it at every opportunity) as an emotional cover-up for your sense of yourself as weak and ill-deserving.

Then, as some kind of "compensation," you are drawn sexually to scenarios involv-

ing women who help you act out the feelings of worthlessness you secretly harbor.

Finally, there is the element of feeling guilty about being somehow "bad."

You don't have to be a genius to know that such feelings stem from early childhood and involve unhealthy parent/child dynamics. These are precisely the kinds of feelings that carry over into adulthood, often leading to peculiar sexual preferences. The desire on your part to want to "wind up under [a woman's] feet" is probably a substitute yearning for being punished — by a substitute mother — for being a generally wicked person. If so, the only way to come to terms with it is to forgive and accept yourself.

The question, then, of how to convey to your female acquaintances that this is the game you want them to play with you is beside the point.

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

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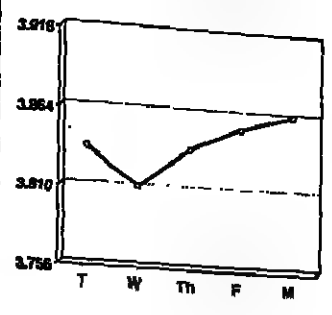
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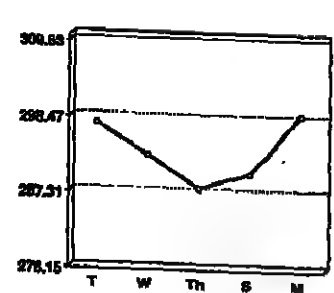
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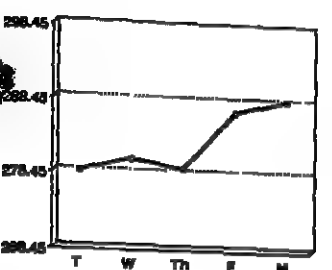
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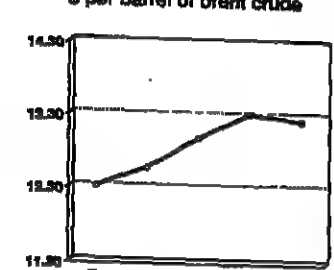
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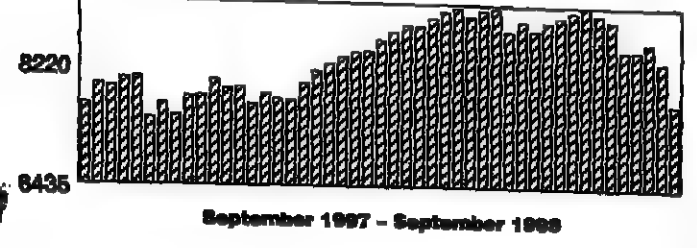
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Survey: 28% rise in troubled businesses

Some 10,815 businesses entered into difficulties in the first eight months of the year, 28 percent more than the 8,470 in that situation in the same period last year, according to a survey conducted by Business Data Israel.

In the first half of the year, the number of new companies being registered was down, by 11%, to 7,280 compared with 8,143.

According to the company, some 1,350 businesses enter into difficulties every month. Most of the companies in trouble are those in the business services sector, followed by construction and infrastructure, and food and consumer products sales.

Nina Gilbert

Somekh Chaikin to join up with KPMG

Somekh Chaikin, the largest accounting and professional services firm in the country, said yesterday that it is to become a member of the international accounting firm KPMG.

KPMG, based in London, operates in 155 countries and will rank as the second-largest accounting firm in the world after the separation of Andersen Consulting and Arthur Andersen.

Until recently, the Tel Aviv-based Somekh Chaikin represented Price Waterhouse in Israel.

Jerusalem Post Staff

PM: Budget will pass today

By NINA GILBERT

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday that he would have a majority in the cabinet to pass the 1999 state budget today.

The cabinet discussion is expected to continue throughout the day and the vote will likely take place late at night. The ministers are to decide on how to spend NIS 173.8b. out of a total 1999 budget of NIS 206.3b, including debt repayment. The budget framework will enable the government to meet its budget deficit target of 2 percent of GDP.

At a news conference, Netanyahu reaffirmed his commitment to a significant, real increase in the defense budget for the first time in 10 years.

He said that talks were continuing between

the Treasury and the Defense Ministry and, if necessary he will make the decision on how much to add to the defense budget. The Defense Ministry is asking for an increase of NIS 2 billion.

The Treasury's proposal presented has a NIS 500m. increase for strategic needs and a NIS 400m. cut in non-strategic areas.

Six ministers are considered solidly behind the budget, regardless of the outcome of today's discussion: Netanyahu, Finance Minister Yehoshua Stetsko, Science Minister Silvan Shalom, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, and Communications Minister Limor Livnat.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon convened a news conference to demand more support for infrastructure, in

particular for railway improvements, as a condition for his support. He said important projects, such as an upgrade of the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv line, would not take place without increased spending.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's support is believed to depend on the increase his ministry receives. Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan is tying his support to a cancellation of the Treasury's proposal to raise fresh water rates for farmers by 8 percent.

Health Minister Yehoshua Stetsko, whose ministry is facing a NIS 200m. cut for drug purchases, still has not decided how he will vote, his spokesman said last night. The position of Education Minister Yitzhak Levy, who has been negotiating with the Treasury over the past few days, was unclear last night. The Treasury is propos-

ing a cut of 25,000 school hours and other cuts.

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai, Interior Minister Eli Suissa, and Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav are unlikely to support the budget.

Meanwhile, Manufacturers Association president Dan Propper called on the government to cut its costs and spend millions more on infrastructure and research and development.

Federation of Chambers of Commerce president Dan Gillerman said the budget will not boost growth and will only result in a continuation of the economic slowdown, a drop in per capita income, and an increase in unemployment.



Euro coins minted
The first Belgian euro coin was minted yesterday in the presence of King Albert II, who is featured on the coin. The euro is due to enter general circulation in 2002.



Real wages up 3.3%

By NINA GILBERT

Real wages of salaried workers rose by 3.3 percent in the second quarter of the year and amounted to a gross average of NIS 6,209, compared with the same period last year, the Central Bureau of Statistics said yesterday.

In industry, the real wage increase was 3.5%, while in public sector administrative jobs the rise was 2.9%.

In the first half of the year, real wages were 3.7% higher than the same period last year. This follows a 2.3% rise in wages in the first half of 1997 compared with 1996.

Second quarter wages were 0.7% higher than wages in the first quarter of the year.

According to the figures, high-tech workers earn an average of NIS 12,000 to NIS 13,000; finance employees make an average of some NIS 12,000; hospital employees earn an average of NIS 7,900; agriculture workers earn about NIS 3,500; waiters earn NIS 2,500; construction workers make NIS 5,000, textile workers make NIS 4,250.

Ruble collapses further

By SERGEI SHARGORODSKY

MOSCOW (AP) - The ruble collapsed dramatically and Central Bank Chairman Sergei Dubinin offered to resign as economic turmoil and political instability rocked Russia again yesterday.

Trading in US dollars was canceled on the Moscow interbank currency exchange because people only wanted to buy dollars, not sell them. However, deals which are to take effect today pegged the exchange rate at as much as 30 rubles to the dollar.

That's down from an official rate that was 17 rubles to the dollar on Friday and 20.66 yesterday. The ruble was trading at just over six to the dollar when the crisis hit last month.

"Everyone is waiting for the confirmation of the prime minister and the announcement of a new economic program," said acting deputy premier Boris Fyodorov. "If there are no offers, the [ruble] price can be anything."

The ruble's continued crash indicates the market had little faith in an immediate resolution to the political standoff between President Boris Yeltsin and his rivals in parliament.

The State Duma, parliament's lower house, was to hold a second vote yesterday on Yeltsin's candidate for prime minister, Viktor Chomomiridze. The Communists and their allies who control the Duma rejected Chomomiridze last week and have vowed to oppose him again.

The market also reacted to the news that Dubinin has offered his resignation. Dubinin blamed parliament for failing to adopt anti-crisis measures.

"There is no government and no chairman at the Central Bank," said Roman Serov, trader at Moscow's ABN-Amro Bank. "I can't see anything good resulting from this."

Gates: IBM, Sun are Microsoft's biggest threat

PARIS (Reuters) - Bill Gates, chairman of software giant Microsoft Corp., said yesterday that IBM Corp and Sun Microsystems were likely to provide the toughest competition in the future.

"IBM is still our biggest competitor," said Gates, answering questions after making a speech to IDC's European IT forum.

"But the thing that's strange is what is IBM's (software) unique architectural initiative. I swear they will come up with one some time. There is a vacuum there that we are benefiting immensely from," Gates said.

Sun Microsystems was number two, according to Gates.

"Sun has got a lot of the messages that people out there are thinking about," Gates said.

John Gantz, senior vice president of US high technology consultancy IDC, said this meant that Microsoft was now turning its guns towards IBM and Sun.

"They've seen off (software competitors) Netscape, they've seen off Novell. They're now aiming at IBM," according to Gantz.

Gantz said IBM had many products that conflicted with Microsoft's ambitions with its Lotus Notes operation and high profile electronic commerce initiative.

Gantz said IBM was also a formidable competitor.

"Microsoft likes to say that it is an integrated organization but this is not quite as pure as it would like us to think. IBM has great strengths that Microsoft doesn't have," Gantz said.

In his speech, Gates talked about the progress Microsoft had made. The company had spent 1996 and 1997 seeking to embrace the Internet.

"The Internet is really part of our culture now," Gates said.

The current watchword was "simplicity," he said. Microsoft would seek partnerships rather than moving into areas where it had little expertise.

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It's official: Asia's crisis is far-reaching

For the first time, a top US policy-maker has conceded that the meltdown in the Far East is jeopardizing the US economic boom

SAN FRANCISCO — The fast-spreading Asian economic crisis formally entered a new phase this weekend: It now has gone global — officially.

When the crisis broke out — with the collapse of Thailand's economy in July 1997 — conventional wisdom held that the damage would be confined to a handful of small Asian economies. America would help, but was unlikely to be affected. For months, it seemed that the United States would be immune.

On Friday, however, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan effectively conceded that the Asian crisis has proved to have had a much more significant reach than first anticipated. In comments at the University of California, Berkeley, Greenspan's disclosure that the US central bank is prepared to cut interest rates if necessary to help calm the turmoil in global markets marked the first concession by a top US policy-maker that the crisis is jeopardizing the US economic boom.

But the question remains whether the US and the other major industrial nations can muster the wherewithal to prevent the current crisis from dragging the world into a recession — or worse yet, a 1930s-style depression that could continue for years.

"We've entered a new stage of recognition that this is truly a global problem, and we're not going to escape it," says Charles H. Dallara, a former US economic policy-maker who now heads the Institute of International Finance, which has been monitoring the Asian crisis closely.

Now, Dallara says, it's time for the Group of Seven — the finance ministers and central bankers of the United States and its six major economic allies — "to wake up." The world's financial markets, he added, "need to see leadership... There's a need for concerted action — soon."

As the past two weeks' turmoil has demonstrated, a collapse in investor confidence can lead to huge swings in global financial markets that can quickly spread the damage to countries that ordinarily would not be targets for such "attacks," plunging their economies into recession.

If the current pace continues, Latin America — which began encountering serious troubles only a few weeks ago — will soon



As Indonesia weathers its worst economic crisis in decades, residents crowd a distribution point selling rice and sugar at government-subsidized prices in Jakarta last week. As long as the Asian slump lingers, the danger looms that it will begin to weaken the US economy as well. (AP)

join the sick list of regions that are heading into recession, heightening the threat to the US, which depends heavily on exports to its southern neighbors.

Most analysts believe that if the United States begins to falter, hopes of staying off a global downturn would be dashed.

"It's an extremely dangerous situation," says David C. Mulford, a former US economic policy-maker now with Credit Suisse First Boston, Ltd., in London.

While Greenspan's announce-

ment no doubt will be welcomed in many quarters, it seemed mainly designed to provide a short-term sedative for panicked global financial markets by holding out the promise of an interest rate cut. But given that any cut by the Fed is likely to be small, most economists doubt such a move will do much to resuscitate Asia.

While Greenspan was making his comments, a development most economists viewed as ominous took place in nearby San Francisco that same day. Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa signaled that Tokyo

still was not prepared to act more boldly to spur Japan out of its recession — depriving the smaller Asian countries of the plasma they need to recover.

To the dismay of analysts, the meeting between Miyazawa and US Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin here on Friday lived up to its advance billing: There were no new initiatives and no indication that Japan is willing to speed up — and enlarge — its economic stimulus program.

Analysts say Tokyo simply does not understand the importance of Japan's recovery to stem-

ing the Asian economic crisis and has begun to resent US badgering on the issue. There is virtually no political support there for a large stimulus package.

As long as the Asian slump lingers, the danger looms that it will begin to weaken the US economy as well. Until recently, the US not only was largely immune from the Asian troubles, it seemed, if anything, to benefit from them — imports are cheaper and the rush of global investors into US financial markets helped push stock prices up.

But the past month's plunge in

the stock market has some analysts worried that Americans may become spooked and consumers may begin to retrench — knocking out the underpinnings of the economic boom.

On Saturday, President Clinton continued his administration's efforts to bolster public confidence in the nation's economy.

"Markets rise and fall. But our economy is the strongest it's been in a generation, and its fundamentals are sound," Clinton said in his weekly radio address, recorded as he wrapped up his visit to Ireland.

The president acknowledged that Asia's woes have "dampened exports, especially for our farmers, and caused losses for some financial institutions..." But he stressed the good news from the Labor Department at week's end — that unemployment remained at a low 4.5 percent — and said: "The bottom line is, for all the quicksilver volatility in the world's financial markets, the American economy is on the right track. From autos to computers, from biotech to construction, our industries continue to lead the world."

While administration officials join many economists in arguing that historically a fall in stock prices does not hurt consumers very much, the entry of huge numbers of Americans into the market through mutual funds and 401K plans has altered that equation and made consumers far more sensitive to market swings.

With US manufacturing now weakened as a result of the collapse of its markets in Asia, consumer spending has been the linchpin keeping the American economy going strongly despite the slowdown in most other regions. Some fear such spending now could quickly slip.

As a result, many of these analysts say, the prospect of an interest rate cut broached by Greenspan should be only the first step.

They want the Group of Seven countries — prodded by the US — to hammer out a series of coordinated measures to restore confidence in the markets. These actions should include, for starters, a global cut in interest rates.

They say the Seven should firmly warn the markets that the industrial nations no longer will stand for the wild gyrations that have become the rule of late. They also want the rich countries to overhaul the International Monetary Fund to tailor its policies to today's problems.

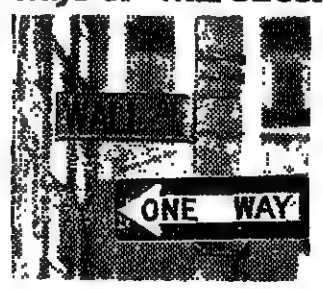
For the moment, however, even the impact of Greenspan's announcement is a subject of uncertainty. As some analysts have noted, making such pronouncements on a Friday evening before the three-day Labor Day holiday runs the risk that their impact will be vitiated by the time the markets open again.

"It certainly wasn't timed for maximum impact," one former policy-maker said.

(Los Angeles Times)

When you feel the urge to sell ...don't

Ways of Wall Street



By JAMES K. GLASSMAN

WASHINGTON — When you heard that the market was plunging toward oblivion last week, what was your first impulse? To sell? To buy? To shrug it off? It's hard to believe there's an investor alive who doesn't feel panic on a day when the Dow Jones industrial average drops 513 points, when a safe haven such as Coca-Cola Co. loses more than 10 percent of its value and when the hottest stock in the market, Dell Computer Corp., falls \$18.75 a share.

But it is almost always a mistake to sell in a panic. In fact, it is almost always a mistake to sell, period.

The main reason is simple, but it's tough to grasp. At the end of any trading session, stocks are, for the most part, fairly and correctly priced. So, at the close on Monday, after falling 513 points, the Dow reflected the value that all investors, using all available knowledge, placed on the 30 companies that make up the average.

The next day begins with a clean slate. Certainly, new information comes out to affect the prices of shares, but you cannot possibly know whether that new information will be good or bad. So it stands to reason that, going forward from any new starting point, stocks will rise at something close to their historic average — or 1 1/2 percent annually.

Look at what happens in practice: Stocks recover even from steep drops fairly quickly. The last serious bear market occurred between Aug. 25 and Dec. 4, 1929, when the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index lost 33.5% of its value — the equivalent of a decline from the recent market peak of 9,338 to 6,210. The S&P recouped that loss by July 1989.

Even more important: T. Rowe Price Associates Inc. examined three scenarios in response to that market decline. In each case an



investor started with \$10,000 and then added \$100 a month.

In the first scenario, the investor simply stays in the stock market through thick and thin. In the second, the investor sells all his stock on the first of the month after the decline in the S&P hits 10%, putting the proceeds into 30-day Treasury bills and continuing to place \$100 a month into T-bills. In the third scenario, the investor similarly cashes in his investment but then puts \$100 per month into stocks.

On Dec. 31, 1997, the investor who stayed in stocks had \$76,000. The investor who moved entirely into cash had just \$30,000. The investor who switched his stocks into cash but then put new money into stocks had \$65,000.

The worst bear market since the Great Depression occurred between December 1972 and September 1974, when the S&P lost 43%. But by June 1976, the market was back to its pre-bear levels. That's hardly a sharp bounce-back, but for anyone under age 50 and planning to retire at age 65, the downturn was practically meaningless.

But aren't there reasons to sell stocks? In his 1957 classic, *Common Stocks and Uncommon Profits* (re-released recently by John Wiley & Sons), Philip Fisher finds just three. You should sell:

— If you made a mistake when you purchased the stock "and it becomes increasingly clear that the factual background of the particular company is, by a significant margin, less favorable than was originally believed."

— If something has changed within the company. If, for instance, "management has deteriorated" or "competition has increased substantially or a major product is a failure and it is unlikely growth will continue into the future."

— If you can replace your stock with another that is a great deal better, keeping in mind that, if you made a good choice in the first place, this "reason why a stock might be sold seldom arises, and should be acted upon only if an investor is very sure of his ground."

Notice what Fisher does NOT list as a reason to sell: that the price of the stock has fallen a lot, and the investor is scared that it will fall some more.

When you feel the urge to sell, don't. Instead, take a deep breath and relax. There may indeed be decent reasons to dump a stock, but consider them carefully and in a relaxed atmosphere — not in a panic such as the one last week.

And, even after contemplation, when you're ready to sell, remember these reasons not to:

— Market timing doesn't work. A decision to sell is a bet on the near future. It is "market timing."

— You are predicting that the price of your stock will continue to fall, rather than doing what stocks traditionally do, which is rise at an average annual rate of 11%.

"The overwhelming evidence," writes Charles Ellis in his excellent 1975 book, *Winning the Loser's Game* (just re-released by McGraw-Hill), "shows that market timing is not an effective way to increase returns for one hour but compelling reason: On average and over time, it does not work."

Ellis cites a study of 100 pension funds that found that "not one...improved its rate of return as a result of its efforts at timing."

The other reason market timing does not work is that the stock market is volatile. It zooms up on only a few weeks a year. You can never tell which they will be, but if you miss them your returns are greatly diminished. For example, Ellis points out that a dollar invested in the S&P 500 index in 1960 became \$19.45 by 1990. But if the same dollar had been taken out of the market for only the best 10 months of that period, then the return would have been cut to just \$6.58. In other words, 66% of the gains were accumulated in just 3

percent of the time.

It is hard enough to make one investment timing decision: when to buy a stock in the first place. It is impossible to make three: when to buy, when to sell and when to buy again.

— Selling is expensive. You have to pay commissions, and you lose a bit on the spread between the stock's bid and asked price. More important, you get socked with capital-gains taxes, which in most cases are 20% federal plus whatever your state rate might be.

— Stocks are the best investment. When you sell, you need to put the proceeds somewhere. But what better place can you find than stocks? There is none over the long term. You should never have been invested in stocks in the first place if a decline in the market is enough to push you into cash or bonds.

Ellis writes: "If you do not need to sell" — that is, if you have no pressing personal need for cash — "you really shouldn't much care about the nominal fluctuations of stock prices. They may be interesting, but they aren't more relevant to you than is stormy weather in faraway places or low tide on the high seas."

Exactly. (The Washington Post)

The writer is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

By GRIFFIN FAY CASIMIR

8.9 Is Democracy in Israel at Risk? Knesset Members Anat Maor and Yehuda Lancry, together with Professors Assa Kasher and Zeev Segal, and other well known speakers, will attempt to answer this question in a wide-ranging discussion taking place this evening at ZOA House in Tel Aviv.

9.9 Over 90 high-tech companies will make formal 20-minute presentations at the two-day second annual High-Tech Growth Conference, being held at the Tel Aviv Hilton under the aegis of Hambrecht & Quist-Tarnir Fishman. Also taking place are panel discussions on Building a Global Internet Presence and Selling Enterprise Software Overseas. Government representatives attending the conference will include Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman.

9.9 Managing Real Estate during a Period of Crisis is the subject of a study afternoon being co-hosted by the Real Estate Club and the Israel Management Center. Aspects to be discussed include marketing real estate at a time of economic austerity; financial support during crisis; utilizing minimal resources; protection of land values; and the anticipated influences of tax-reform legislation. Speakers will include university lecturers as well as representatives from banking, construction, investment and property-development enterprises. The event is being held at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv.

12.9 Some 3,600 northern region residential options will be offered at the three-night Housing Fair, opening Saturday evening at the Haifa Convention Center.

13.9 Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will be the guest speaker at the opening of the third International Conference of the Israel Venture Association, being held at the Dan Panorama Convention Center in Tel Aviv.

The three-day event, which will focus on high-tech venture capital, will also be addressed by former prime minister Shimon Peres; Orna Berry, chief scientist of the Ministry of Industry and Trade; Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and representatives from multimillion dollar companies headquartered in Israel, Europe, the US, Asia and Australia. Participants will discuss trends in venture capital, the Internet and software, healthcare, biotechnology, corporate investments, stock markets and communications. Other subjects to be covered include: "The US venture capital market"; "From investment banker to venture capitalist"; "Investing in Israeli high-tech companies — tax-related considerations"; "The European trading platform for Israeli growth companies"; and "Bank financing for venture-backed companies."

13.9 A conference on Enterprise Resource Planning will be held under the auspices of *Status*, the monthly publication on management, at Gan Oranin. Aimed at general managers, finance managers, operations managers and managers of data systems, the conference will focus on the many ways in which ERP systems can benefit any enterprise.

15.9 Michael Eitan, Prime Minister's Office responsible for the promotion of the computing unit, will be the key lecturer at Pasher and Associates' third International Network of Knowledge Management Companies. The event will take place at the Dan Accadia Hotel, Herzliya. Other speakers will include Ami Sagis, the new managing director of Supersol, who until very recently headed the IDF's department of technology and logistics; Rafi Rosenbloom, CEO of Bio-Rad; Dr. David Mitvach, CEO of NCR; Brig. Doron Almog, head of the IDF's instruction methodology division; Ron Dvir, chief knowledge officer of ECI Telecom; Moshe Rakach, CEO of Vinsite and Menachem Terkel, CEO of Exploit.

US, Europe locked in dogfight over aircraft orders

FARNBOROUGH (Reuters) - The biennial Farnborough international air show opened southwest of London yesterday with Europe and the United States locked in an intense transatlantic dogfight for aircraft orders.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, speaking at the opening ceremony, said it was vital for the European aviation industry to restructure and consolidate.

"Over the last year, the aerospace industry has made important progress on restructuring in order to meet the growing challenge of being globally competitive. I have strongly supported this," he added.

"Everyone recognizes that this task needs to continue and that it remains urgent and vital if we are to maintain our position as a vigorous player in the aerospace market," he said.

This year's event is the biggest since it began 50 years ago. Some 1,200 exhibitors from 31 countries are battling for civilian and military orders and up to 100 aircraft are on show.

Britain's aerospace industry boasts of being second only in size to the United States with sales

last year of 15.06 billion pounds (NIS 96.38b.) or 12.5 percent of the global market. It employs over 120,000 people.

But the Labor government considers it vital that European firms merge to create a commercial and military aerospace rival to the newly consolidated US giants Boeing Co, Lockheed Martin Corp and Raytheon Co.

Blair pledged that the government would work closely with the aviation industry to facilitate restructuring plans.

The four-nation European Airbus Industrie consortium was in ebullient form at the show having just landed an \$8b. (NIS 30.4b.) order from British Airways Plc in a battle with Boeing, the world's biggest seller of jet airliners.

"The recently announced order from British Airways is a real demonstration of confidence in Airbus, a European collaboration in which the United Kingdom is very proud to be a key player," Blair said.

"The British Airways order could not have come at a better time than now," he added.

But the leading private sector

firms British Aerospace (BAe) and Daimler-Benz Aerospace (DASA) have refused to entertain a merger with Aerospatiale, their French partner in the Airbus Industrie consortium while it remains a state-controlled company.

Equally, Aerospatiale is worried that the other two companies might do a bilateral deal while they are waiting for the French to fall into line.

The French government said yesterday that any Anglo-German deal might endanger the future of the successful Airbus consortium.

Both British Aerospace and DASA have played down the suggestion that they are about to merge but have not ruled out the idea they might move closer as part of Europe-wide integration.

"We are in the process of talking to all the players on both sides of the Atlantic," BAe Chief Executive John Weston told reporters.

"We are talking to DASA, we are talking to (Italy's) Alenia, we are talking to (Spain's) Alenia, but none of those discussions are any more advanced than any other," he said.



British Prime Minister Tony Blair (center) and Minister for Trade and Industry Peter Mandelson (right) talk to a test pilot yesterday while inspecting the cockpit of the Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft at the Farnborough airshow. This year's show is the biggest since the event began 50 years ago. (Reuters)



ISRAEL PORTS AND RAILWAYS AUTHORITY PORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

Notice of Pre-Qualification Procedure and Tender

Tender No/ 10/0803/019/98A/C ("Tender A/C")
Tender No/ 10/0803/019/98B ("Tender B")

Pursuant to the Tender Laws of the State of Israel, The Israel Ports and Railways Authority ("PRA") notifies

MARINE GEOTECHNICAL SITE INVESTIGATION CONTRACTORS

that the PRA is tendering for the supply of works from Marine Geotechnical Site Investigation Contractors who will be pre-qualified for Geotechnical Site Investigations of Haifa and Ashdod Ports, Israel in connection with the development of those ports.

1. The Marine Geotechnical Site Investigation Contractor(s) which will carry out the works will be chosen pursuant to a selective competitive process from among those Marine Contractors which will be Pre-Qualified. The tender process may involve negotiations. It is anticipated that the works with regard to "Tender A/C" will commence in the first half of December 1998. It is further anticipated that the "Tender B" works may commence approximately four months after the commencement of the Tender A/C works. The works, in brief summary form, consist of the following:

"Tender A/C" (A: Haifa Port/C: Ashdod Port)
Over-water geotechnical site investigation comprising, among other matters:
Bore holes up to 150m deep from the seabed floor;
Vibrocores up to 6m deep from the seabed floor;
Static cone penetration tests up to 50m deep from the seabed floor;
Other in-situ tests;
Laboratory testing;
Submission of factual reports, in English.

"Tender B" in Haifa Port

The decision to carry out the boreholes scheduled in Tender B will depend on the findings of the three "semi deep" boreholes in Tender A. For this reason the three boreholes for Tender "A" will be carried out at the start of the Haifa investigation. If it is found that soils data is not required below 150m depth, then the Tender B boreholes will not be undertaken.

Tender "B" works:

Contingent upon the results to be obtained from the first three 150m Boreholes to be performed as part of Tender A/C, the PRA may order the following works as Tender "B":
Over-water geotechnical site investigation comprising, among other matters:
Deep-bore holes up to 400m deep from the seabed floor and downhole static cone penetration testing of those deep bore holes;

Other in-situ tests

Laboratory testing
Submission of factual reports, in English

2. Marine Geotechnical Site Investigation Contractor(s) shall be pre-qualified by the PRA for "Tender A/C" and/or for "Tender B". The Bid(s) for the works must be submitted in a separate sealed envelope(s) from the envelope(s) containing the documents relating to pre-qualification of the Marine Geotechnical Site Investigation Contractor(s). Each tender (A/C or B) shall be inserted in a separate sealed envelope.

3. The Bids shall not be opened by the PRA unless the Marine Geotechnical Site Investigation Contractor has been pre-qualified with regard to the appropriate Tender(s). The PRA may, in the exercise of its discretion, and in accordance with the criteria set out in the Pre-Qualification and Bidding Documents, award the works to different Marine Geotechnical Site Investigation Contractors which have been pre-qualified with regard to each Tender or may award the works to a single Marine Geotechnical Site Investigation Contractor which has been pre-qualified for both "Tender A/C" and for "Tender B".

4. In order to be designated by the PRA as a Qualified Marine Geotechnical Site Investigation Contractor, the potential Contractor must demonstrate that it meets the requirements set out in full in the Pre-Qualification and Bidding Documents.

The requirements, in brief summary form, are as follows:

"TENDER A/C"

Experience:

- Five years continuous experience from 1993 in marine geotechnical investigations with a minimum of one investigation each year totalling at least \$2,500,000 over those five years.
- Five marine geotechnical investigations in water up to a depth of 20m and including boreholes to a minimum of 150m depth under the seabed during this five year period.
- Ten vibrocore investigations minimum during this five year period and in water up to a depth of 20m.
- The investigations having been carried out in accordance with the appropriate ASTM or BS standards. Other standards may be accepted upon convincing proof of their being equivalent to ASTM or BS standards.

Appropriate Personnel:

as detailed in the documents

Equipment:

Jack-up platform; rotary drill rig, electric static cone penetration test equipment; vibrocore and support equipment, all as appropriate for the carrying out of the works.

The Contractor must demonstrate, either by documentation of the Contractor's ownership or by existing lease, or by means of a conditional agreement with a sub-contractor who owns or leases the equipment, that the Contractor will possess the appropriate equipment for the carrying out of the work. Any said "sub-contractor" may enter into conditional agreements with more than one Contractor who will be presenting itself for pre-qualification.

Quality Assurance:

Quality Management system which meets the requirements of ISO 9001.

Laboratory:

A laboratory which operates and conforms to a quality assurance system in accordance with the requirements of ISO "Guideline 25"

Appropriate Safety Policy

"TENDER B"

Experience:

- A Bid-Bond amounting to \$200,000 U.S. is required with regard to "Tender A/C".
- A Bid-Bond amounting to \$200,000 U.S. is required with regard to "Tender B". The bid bond(s) will be replaced by a performance bond in the same amount(s) from the winning Marine Geotechnical Site Investigation Contractor(s). All bonds will be in the form of a Bank Guarantee from a first-class bank as defined in the Pre-qualification and Bidding Documents.

6. The Pre-Qualification and Bidding Documents for Marine Drilling/Boring Contractors may be obtained from J. Gazit, Ports Development Project Administration, PRA, 74 Petach Tikva Road, Room 607, Tel Aviv, Israel 67215 beginning on September 10, 1998 on business days and during business hours in Israel and until no later than October 1, 1998, after payment of N.I.S. 3510 V.A.T. included, which sum is non-refundable, by means of a check in N.I.S. made out to the order of the "Ports and Railways Authority" delivered to J. Gazit as above.

Appropriate Personnel:

as detailed in the documents

Equipment:

Appropriate motion compensated rotary drill derrick mounted on an anchored barge or vessel or a rotary drill rig mounted on a jack-up platform.

A suitable anchoring method for the barge/vessel or jack-up.

The Contractor must demonstrate, either by documentation of the Contractor's ownership or by existing lease, or by means of a conditional agreement with a sub-contractor who owns or leases the equipment, that the Contractor will possess the appropriate equipment for the carrying out of the work. Any said "sub-contractor" may enter into conditional agreements with more than one Contractor who will be presenting itself for pre-qualification.

Quality Assurance:

Quality Management system which meets the requirements of ISO 9001.

Laboratory:

A laboratory which operates and conforms to a quality assurance system in accordance with the requirements of ISO "Guideline 25"

Appropriate Safety Policy

5. A Bid-Bond amounting to \$200,000 U.S. is required with regard to "Tender A/C".

Another Bid-Bond amounting to \$200,000 U.S. is required with regard to "Tender B". The bid bond(s) will be replaced by a performance bond in the same amount(s) from the winning Marine Geotechnical Site Investigation Contractor(s). All bonds will be in the form of a Bank Guarantee from a first-class bank as defined in the Pre-qualification and Bidding Documents.

6. The Pre-Qualification and Bidding Documents for Marine Drilling/Boring Contractors may be obtained from J. Gazit, Ports Development Project Administration, PRA, 74 Petach Tikva Road, Room 607, Tel Aviv, Israel 67215 beginning on September 10, 1998 on business days and during business hours in Israel and until no later than October 1, 1998, after payment of N.I.S. 3510 V.A.T. included, which sum is non-refundable, by means of a check in N.I.S. made out to the order of the "Ports and Railways Authority" delivered to J. Gazit as above.

7. The Pre-Qualification and Bidding Documents, completed in English, must be received by the PRA at the address set out in the Documents not later than 14:00 on Monday, October 26, 1998.

8. A meeting in connection with the works will be held at Ashdod and Haifa Ports, on Sunday and Monday, September 27 & 28, 1998. Participation in the Conference is not mandatory but is highly recommended.

9. A more detailed summary of the requirements and terms ("Summary Announcement of Pre-Qualification Procedure and Tender"), including details of the meeting, legal status requirements, bid bonds, the requirements for full compliance with Israeli laws, etc., will be furnished by the PRA by Fax, without charge, upon request to J. Gazit, Ports Development Project Administration, 74 Petach Tikva Road, Tel Aviv, Israel. Tel: +972-3-565-7929; Fax: +972-3-565-7071; +972-3-562-0482.

10. The Pre-Qualification and Bidding Process shall be governed solely by the provisions contained in the Pre-Qualification and Bidding Documents and not by the contents of this advertisement or the "summary" referred to above. It is not anticipated that any further notice will be published in connection with this tender.

Greenspan hints at rate cut

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - The US Federal Reserve no longer views inflation as the primary threat to the US economy and may cut key interest rates should global financial turmoil intensify and do serious damage to the world's top economy.

That, in a nutshell, was Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan's message in his first major address since the chaos in global financial markets has intensified in recent weeks, prompting mounting worries over the stability of the entire world economy.

Financial markets in the United States and elsewhere had long been urging the reclusive Fed chairman to give them some indication of what he intends to do in the face of what many fear is turning into a crisis of unprecedented proportions.

After Greenspan caused widespread annoyance among Fed watchers for failing to address the issue a week ago at a high-level Fed symposium in Wyoming, he finally chose an academic conference at the University of California, Berkeley this weekend to deliver his eagerly awaited message.

Greenspan then headed to nearby San Francisco to join a meeting between US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Japan's Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on the question of what Japan should do to restore its economy and help its battered Asian neighbors recover from a deep slump.

Although he did not directly comment on the bank's interest rate policy, Greenspan said this was a time for caution.

"It is just not credible that the United States can remain an oasis of prosperity unaffected by a world that is experiencing greatly

increased stress," he warned.

Greenspan suggested the central bank currently viewed the risks to the US economy as balanced - confirming market speculation that the Fed has dropped its inclination, or "bias," to raise rather than cut rates or leave them unchanged - but said it would have to "consider carefully" developments in the world economy in coming weeks and months.



Alan Greenspan (UPPA)

US market interest rates, determined by the forces of supply and demand in the world's highly-liquid bond markets, are hovering near historic lows as the crisis that once started as a purely regional upheaval in Asia has gathered speed, causing investors to seek shelter in US government paper.

But the Fed has kept official interest rates - primarily the overnight federal funds bank lending rate which it targets as its main policy tool since it determines borrowing costs throughout the economy - steady ever since March 1997, afraid that strong demand at home may cause inflation to rise.

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Rafanana-Kfar Sava: Hadar, 12 Habanim, Hod Hasharon, 740-1435; Netanya: Kupat Holim Chalit, 8 Razieli, 980-3520.
Haifa: Hadas, 53 Horev, 826-2873; Krayot area: Kupat Holim Chalit Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Bialik, 878-7818.
Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 9 Merkazi (Cnr. Sderot Hagallim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407.
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Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 863-0633, Eilat 833-1977.
Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association support service, 02-624-7676.
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מכירת האוכל

Storm holds up Sampras at US Open

NEW YORK — A severe storm halted play at the US Open tennis championships yesterday.

World No. 1 Pete Sampras was early in the second set of his fourth-round match with Russian teenager Yevgeny Kafelnikov at Arthur Ashe Stadium when the skies darkened and high winds kicked up.

By the time the match was suspended with Sampras leading 6-4, 2-1, the lights were on and the downpour had begun.

In the old stadium, fifth seed Venus Williams was leading 12th seed Mary Pierce 6-1, 1-0 in a women's fourth-round match when fans started streaming out seeking cover.

By the time play was called and the players walked off, torrential rain was hammering Flushing Meadows.

Earlier, Amanda Coetzer and Conchita Martinez had to sleep before the 13th-seeded South African finally

outlasted seventh seed Martinez to advance to the quarter-finals.

In a near mind-numbing match filled with seemingly endless baseline rallies that far more often ended with errors than winners, the 1.58m Coetzer finally picked up the pace and her play to pull out a 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 upset of the 1994 Wimbledon champion in two hours and 38 minutes.

Coetzer, who was ranked fourth in the world at the end of 1997 but has dropped out of the top-10 this year, earned the right to a quarter-final meeting with the winner of last night's match between second seed Lindsay Davenport and 10th-seeded Wimbledon runner-up Nathalie Tauziat.

Martinez, who had won 12 of her previous 13 meetings with Coetzer, struggled with a stiff neck and needed numerous massages from the trainer during changeovers.

But the Spaniard's problems

appeared to have been as much mental as physical as she seemed to have trouble keeping her mind on the match.

The sporty second game of the second set provided a microcosm of the match. The game lasted 20 minutes and 25 seconds — longer than many entire sets — with 28 points and 11 deuces, before Martinez finally converted her fifth break point of the game just to put the set back on serve.

During one of the less than scintillating points of that game, one fan yelled out "Booooooring!" Forays to the net by either player brought cheers from the crowd less than patiently awaiting Pete Sampras's fourth-round match, which was to follow on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court.

On Sunday night, Steffi Graf's comeback collapsed against a Swiss teenager who was just three when the dominant women's player of the

last decade played her first professional match.

The 6-3, 6-4 loss to Patty Schnyder sent the 11th-seeded Swiss player into the quarter-finals and five-time champion Graf out of the tournament earlier than at any point since her first appearance in 1984.

Graf, who is trying to regain her form after knee surgery, committed 33 unforced errors, including many off her once-fearsome forehand.

"Obviously, I made a lot of mistakes, easy mistakes," Graf said. "I just never got a rhythm. I couldn't get any depth to my shots."

Also losing was men's No. 2 seed Marcelo Rios, who twice this year replaced Pete Sampras as the world's top-ranked player for short periods. Rios lost 6-1, 6-7 (3-7), 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 to Magnus Larsson, who served his 17th ace on match point.

Though Graf was seeded eighth and Schnyder 11th, the result was not that much of an upset. Graf is

ranked just 26th in the world while returning from the knee surgery, and Schnyder is ranked 10th.

The match ended after 59 minutes when Graf hit a service return long. Graf marched quickly off court, while Schnyder celebrated and then signed autographs.

Schnyder, 19, who has won five tournaments this year, broke Graf's serve early in the first set and took advantage of 14 unforced errors by Graf in the first seven games. Graf, who began the match with tape around her right wrist, removed the tape after falling behind 5-2.

Schnyder took a 2-1 lead in the second set with another service break. Graf immediately broke back, and the set was tied 4-4 until Schnyder broke again in the ninth game. She then held serve for the victory.

Graf had not been eliminated this early since losing in the first round as a 15-year-old in 1984. (Reuters, AP)

SPORTS

in brief

Lancashire win second title in 24 hours

LONDON (Reuters) — Lancashire won their second English county one-day crown in 24 hours yesterday, clinching the 40-overs league title at Old Trafford.

Pakistan all-rounder Wasim Akram led Lancashire to the NatWest Trophy on Sunday with a nine-wicket trouncing of Derbyshire. Yesterday's 16-run victory over Hampshire secured the league title.

Manchester Utd go for bigger stadium

MANCHESTER (Reuters) — Manchester United want to increase the capacity of their Old Trafford stadium from 55,000 to 67,400 seats.

Planning application for the £30 million project to extend the East and West stands was submitted to the local council yesterday. The work would also include new offices and club shop.

Welsh women bowlers to test local opposition

By NORMAN SPIRO

A visiting team of six women from Wales will test the strength of Israel's women bowlers next week.

While the Welsh players do not represent Wales' present international side — they are in Malaysia at the Commonwealth Games — all of the visitors are British Isles international players with distinguished British Isles and national titles under their belts. Janet Ackland, in particular, won the World Bowls outdoor singles title in 1988.

For Israel, the series presents the opportunity to feature more than Israel's six top internationals. Twenty-four players have been chosen

for the four one-day matches which comprises alternate six-up sides playing triples in the morning, followed by two games of pairs and two singles in the afternoon.

Israel will be weakened by the indisposition of three of its top internationals: Maureen Hirschowitz, Merle Swerdlow and Renee Kusman. Yet for the newcomers to international scene, the opportunity is there to show their mettle and substantiate claims for higher honors.

The Welsh start off with a warm-up against Israel's national selectors next Monday in Ramatana followed by matches on Tuesday in Ramat Hasharon, Wednesday in Ramatana, Friday in Haifa and Saturday in Netanya.

Rain or shine, Commonwealth Games opening ceremony will go on

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) — Commonwealth Games officials decided yesterday to press ahead with the event's glittering opening ceremony even if there is a repeat of tropical rain that disrupted the gala's dress rehearsal.

A Games official said consideration was given to putting off the opening ceremony if there should be another downpour on Friday night, but organizers believed lessons they learned from Sunday night's deluge would allow them to go ahead whatever the conditions.

Malaysian Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said after the drenched rehearsal that organizers were prepared to delay the much anticipated ceremony, which is expected to draw more than 100,000 people.

"Luckily for us the athletics events will only start on September 16. This means we will have four days to hold the performance," he told reporters.

But a review yesterday convinced officials that measures such as drilling holes in the ground to drain away water quickly would solve the problem.

"We look like being lucky anyway," a Games spokesman said. "The long range weather forecast is for some rain in the afternoon but clear for the evening."

As the countdown continued to the opening of the first Commonwealth Games in Asia's tropical heat, athletes worried not about too much water but not enough liquid. "Everyone is drinking water like crazy," the spokesman said.

Canadian swimmer Nicole Davey said competitors were doing everything possible to acclimatize as quickly as possible.

"We drink, drink, drink water. We sometimes put salt in our water bottles. It helps us retain water," he said.

Australian swimmers, favored to carry off the most gold and other medals at the 16th Commonwealth Games by the time they end on September 21, were also on their guard against stomach trouble that often accompanies hot weather.

Team nutritionist Louise Burke has put the nation's glamour swimmers on a low dosage medication of antibiotics as a precaution.

"We have to watch for dehydration and travelers' trots," she said.

With four days left until the Games opening ceremony, a total of 37 of the 69 nations have checked into the Games village on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur with barely a sign of Malaysia's economic and political turmoil disrupting preparations.

"The prophets of doom, both within the country and abroad, who had been casting a pall over the Games with talks of haze and drought, may have to eat humble pie as all preparations point towards a great Games," the Star newspaper said in a front page article.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who is maneuvering his way through upheaval in his ruling party after firing his finance minister and deputy Anwar Ibrahim last week, plans to find the time tomorrow to attend a final dress rehearsal for Friday's hour-long opening ceremony.

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VEHICLES

Tel Aviv

49ers top Jets in OT

NEW YORK (AP) — If the San Francisco 49ers and New York Jets can keep this up, imagine what kind of seasons are in store for them. On an opening day when seven NFL quarterbacks were injured, the 49ers' Steve Young and Jets' Glenn Foley staged an old-fashioned shootout at 3Com Park. The teams combined for 1,022 yards, the final 96 on a team-record touchdown run by Garrison Hearst that gave San Francisco a 36-30 overtime victory.

"I just pulled out and saw some room," Hearst said. "Then, as I kept going, everything started to open up. I was just thinking, 'Don't run out of gas. I couldn't believe we broke it on that play.'"

It was the last big play in a game filled with sensational offensive performances, including Young, coming off his sixth passing title, going 26-for-46 for 363 yards and three touchdowns.

And Foley doing even better, completing 30 of 58 for 415 yards and three touchdowns.

Jets RBs Keyshawn Johnson and Wayne Chrebet, combined for 15 catches and 251 yards.

The outrageousness overshadowed somewhat Jerry Rice's return to the 49ers. The game's greatest receiver, who played in only parts of two 1997 games because of knee injuries, flashed his old form on a 14-yard touchdown reception. He had six catches for 86 yards.

In the rest of the league was the big quarterback casualty list.

Buffalo's quarterback, Rob Johnson, was one of the signal-callers not to make it through opening day. He sustained a concussion and cut chin in the Bills' 16-14 loss to the Chargers.

Other quarterbacks injured were New Orleans' Billy Joe Hobert, who tore his Achilles' tendon in a 24-17 victory at St. Louis and will be out for the season; Kansas City's Elvis Grbac (bruised right shoulder) in a 28-8 win against Oakland; Tennessee's Steve McNair (bruised right elbow) in a 23-14 victory at Cincinnati; Baltimore's Jim Harbaugh (slight fracture of his right ring finger) in a 20-13 loss to Pittsburgh; Tampa Bay's Trent Dilfer (deep thigh bruise) in a 31-7 rout at the hands of Minnesota; and Washington's Gus Frerotte (sprained left shoulder) in a 31-24 loss to the New York Giants.

Last night, Super Bowl champion Denver was set to host New England.

Jaguars 24, Bears 23

Mark Brunell went 8-for-9 in an 87-yard game-winning drive as

Jacksonville rallied at Chicago. Brunell threw for 73 yards on the drive, hitting Jimmy Smith with a 4-yard TD pass with 29 seconds left.

Chargers 16, Bills 14

Host San Diego won when John Carney's 54-yard field goal bounced off the left upright and went through with 4:30 to play. Then usually reliable Steve Christie was wide left on a 39-yard field-goal attempt with three seconds left. Christie also shanked a 21-yard attempt early in the fourth quarter at San Diego.

Doug Flutie, in relief of Johnson, was superb, with touchdown passes of 43 and 5 yards to Andre Reed. The 35-year-old quarterback spent the last eight years in the CFL.

Ryan Leaf, the second overall pick in the draft, had a mediocre debut for the Chargers.

Leaf completed 16 of 31 passes for 192 yards and one touchdown, but was intercepted twice by safety Henry Jones. Two more pick-offs by the Bills were called back on penalties, including one by Manny Martin when Jones was called for roughing the passer.

Saints 24, Rams 17

New Orleans turned two first-half turnovers into touchdowns and had only one turnover, contrasting with a mistake-filled performance from St. Louis. Lamar Smith caught one touchdown pass and threw for another on an option play.

Chiefs 28, Raiders 8

Derrick Thomas nearly matched his NFL record of seven sacks, getting to Jeff George six times as the hosts dumped George, 10 times. Kansas City ran up a 17-0 lead before Oakland ran a successful play, making for a painful debut for 35-year-old Raiders coach Jon Gruden.

Oilers 23, Bengals 14

Al Del Greco made his first three field-goal attempts, while Dave Krieg took over for McNair and played well. But Tennessee lost five players to injury: McNair, DT Henry Ford, safety Blaine Bishop, cornerback Steve Jackson and center Erik Norgard.

Cincinnati running back Ki-Jana Carter broke his left wrist and will be out eight to 12 weeks.

Dolphins 24, Colts 15

Top overall draft pick Peyton Manning had an inauspicious debut, throwing three interceptions, with Terrell Buckley returning one 21 yards for a score. He also was sacked four times. Dan Marino had a 44-yard TD pass at Indianapolis.

Cowboys 38, Cardinals 10

Troy Aikman ran for two touchdowns — more than he's had in any season — and passed for two more to snap host Dallas' 10-game losing streak that included five 1998 exhibition games and the last five games of 1997.

"It was a real frustrating game,"

said Arizona quarterback Jake Plummer, who was 14-for-32 for 166 yards. "We didn't convert on third down and if you do that you're not going to win. The offense can take a big hit for this one. We had guys open and we dropped balls and then I missed them. You can't do that."

Gailey joined Switzer as the only Dallas coach to win his first game. Switzer did so in 1994, while Tom Landry and Jimmy Johnson lost their debuts.

In games reported in yesterday's edition:

Steelers 20, Ravens 13

Kordell Stewart scored Pittsburgh's first touchdown after Baltimore botched a punt, and threw for another.

Vikings 31, Buccaneers 7

Brad Johnson, coming back from last year's neck injury, had a career-high four TD passes, two to veteran Cris Carter and two to hot-shot rookie Randy Moss.

Giants 31, Redskins 24

All-Pro defensive end Michael Strahan scored on a 24-yard interception return as New York's opportunistic defense scored or set up three third-quarter touchdowns over the error-prone visitors.

Packers 38, Lions 19

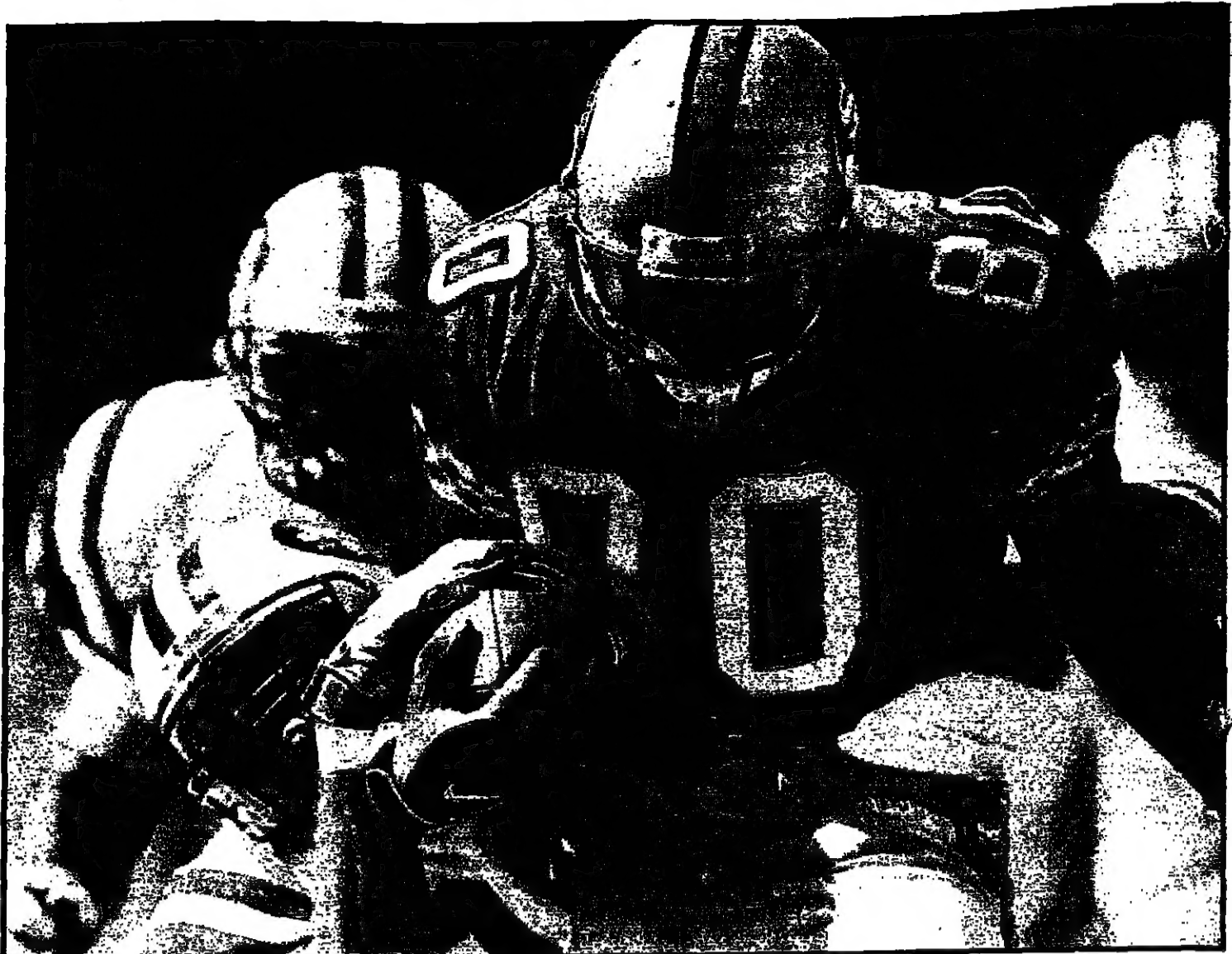
Detroit's Terry Fair returned six kickoffs for 244 yards and Preston returned four for 163. The Packers have won 28 straight games at Lambeau Field.

Falcons 19, Panthers 14

Kevin Green managed three sacks, but it did not deter the Falcons, who converted one interception and two Carolina punting miscues into 12 points.

Seahawks 38, Eagles 0

Joey Galloway had a career-high 142 yards receiving and scored two touchdowns as Seattle handed



POSSESSIVE — San Francisco's Jerry Rice (80) holds onto a 16-yard TD pass from QB Steve Young despite Jets safety Jerome Henderson's best efforts to rip the ball away.

Philadelphia its first shutout in a home opener since 1941. It was the worst opening loss in Eagles history.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
East	1	0	0	.1000	30	10
Dallas	1	0	0	.1000	31	24
IL Games	0	1	0	.0000	10	30
Arizona	0	1	0	.0000	10	30
Philadelphia	0	1	0	.0000	0	38
Washington	0	1	0	.0000	24	31
Central						
Green Bay	1	0	0	.1000	38	19
Minnesota	1	0	0	.1000	31	7
Chicago	0	1	0	.0000	23	24
Tampa Bay	0	1	0	.0000	19	28
San Diego	0	1	0	.0000	7	31
West						
Atlanta	1	0	0	.1000	19	14
New Orleans	1	0	0	.1000	24	17
San Francisco	1	0	0	.1000	36	30
Carolina	0	1	0	.0000	14	19
St. Louis	0	1	0	.0000	17	24

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Inside

Jets lose in overtime

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US Open roundup

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Sports Editors

Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Canoeist takes gold medal at world championships

By HEATHER CHAIT

New immigrant Michael Kolganov steered himself to prominence on Sunday by winning the gold medal at the world canoeing championships in Szeged, Hungary.

Kolganov, 24 years old, who immigrated three years ago from Tashkent, Uzbekistan, is not only the new world champion in the 200 meters category but also won the silver medal in the 500m Olympic distance.

In the 500 meters, Kolganov led during the entire race over Hungary's Olympic champion Akos Vereckei, but the photo finish result put the Hungarian ahead by 152-thousandths of a second.

Later in the day, Kolganov returned to the water and maintained his edge in the 200m event, beating Ukrainian Oleksii Slivinskiy by 228-thousandths of a second.

Kolganov, a soldier who lives at Kibbutz Degania B and trains with Hapoel Erez Hayarden, had finished fifth in the 1000 meters two days earlier.

SCOREBOARD

MOTOR RACING - Britain's Johnny Herbert will join the Stewart Formula one team next season on a two-year contract, the team said yesterday.

Herbert, 34, currently races for the Sauber team. He is the longest-serving driver in Formula one.

The Stewart team statement did not mention who the Englishman's team-mate would be. The team's current partners are Brazilian Rubens Barrichello and Dutchman Jos Verstappen.

The spirit of St. Louis

Mark McGwire matches Roger Maris's 61 HRs in Cards' 3-2 win

ST. LOUIS (AP) - Mark McGwire's 61st home run sent St. Louis into a cheering, horn-blowing frenzy.

As McGwire rounded the bases after tying Roger Maris' record in the first inning of a game which the Cardinals won 3-2 last night, Busch Stadium gave him an ovation that lasted well into the at-bat of teammate Ray Langford.

McGwire gave high-fives to Chicago first baseman Mark Grace and third baseman Gary Gaetti, then lifted his 10-year-old son Matthew and carried him for several steps after crossing home plate.

The scene moved many in the crowd of 50,530, which included Maris' sons. Even Chicago's Sammy Sosa, who is chasing McGwire with 58 home runs, applauded in right field.

"To be here, I will remember and cherish my entire life," said Rick Faccin, 44, of Alton, Illinois. "The reception he received and what he did as he rounded the bases gave me chills all over."

"When I saw the ball hit off the glass and I knew he tied the record, I had a few tears in my eyes," said Don Fisher, 51, of Marion, Illinois. "It made me feel like I was part of history since I saw it live."

Downtown, horns blared in the minutes after McGwire's homer. TV stations interrupted programming to announce the news.

The celebrations didn't end even though McGwire failed to hit No. 62. In the eighth inning, the Blue Angels' precision flying team roared over Busch Stadium, sending the crowd into another round of cheering. It was a day St. Louis won't soon forget.

The Cardinals have won 15 pennants and nine World Series, but the city hadn't seen hysteria like this since the ticker-tape parade after Charles Lindbergh flew the Spirit of St. Louis across the

Atlantic in the 1920s.

Red 60s were plastered everywhere: billboards, store signs, even a few bare chests. By early afternoon, 61s were already going up.

In health clubs, grocery stores, restaurants, even taxi cabs and hospitals, all conversation centered around McGwire and Sosa.

"A lot of the nursing staff is wearing red today, and many of them brought small radios to work so they can keep track of the game," said Mary Jo Wich, a spokeswoman at St. Anthony's Medical Center.

The radios weren't really necessary. In virtually every patient room, the game was on TV. "You walk down the hall and you can hear it everywhere," Wich said.

St. Louis County Cab Co. dispatcher Ron Gregerson said most of his 63 drivers were tuned to the game, not only for their own interest, but because their fares were demanding it.

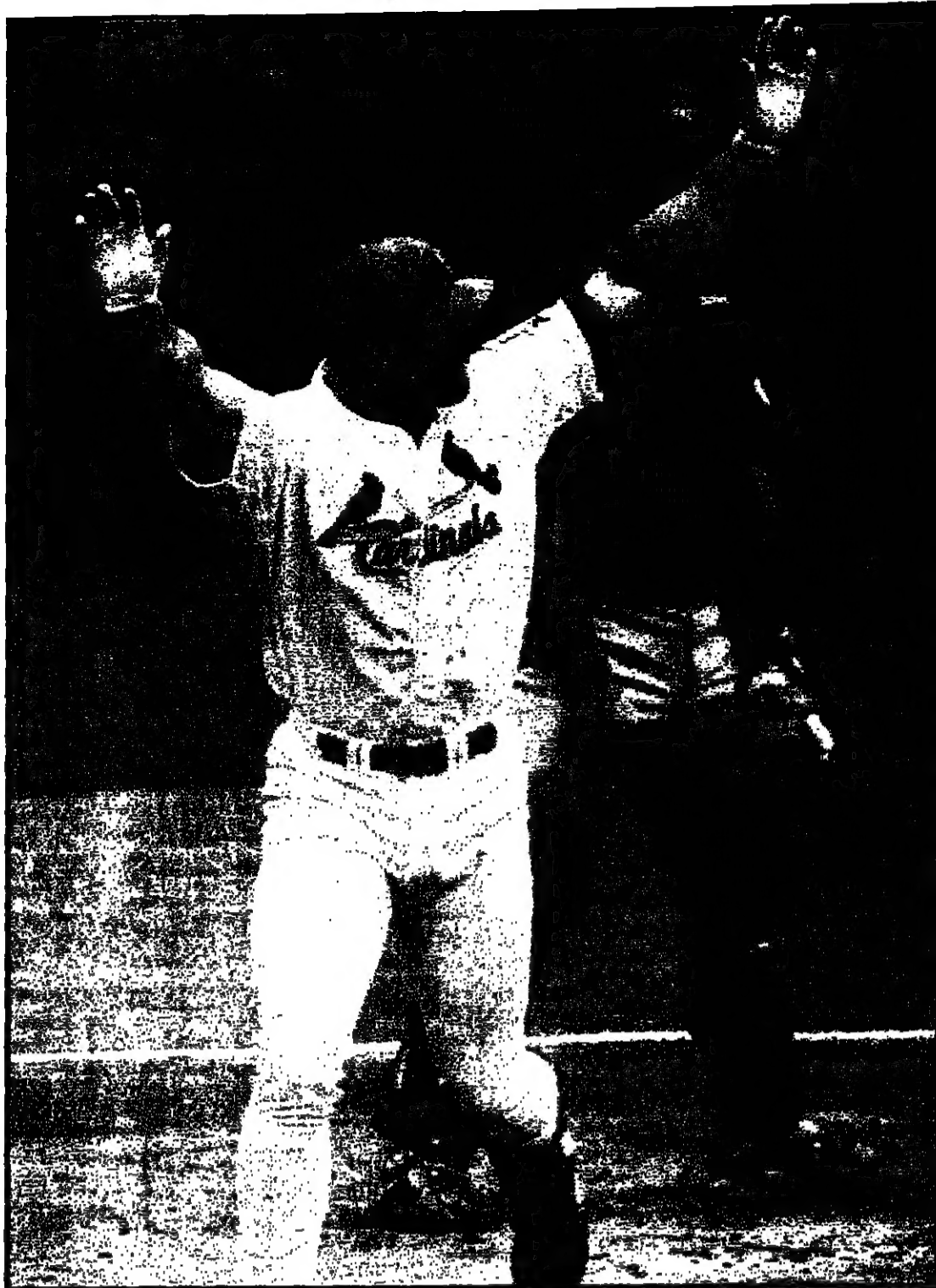
Typically, thousands of Cubs fans make the trek for games in St. Louis, and yesterday was no exception. There were nearly as many blue "Sosa 21" jerseys as red "McGwire 25s."

"I'm here to see Sammy surpass Mr. McGwire as the home run king of major league baseball," said Dan Sherman, 30, of Quincy, Illinois, wearing a Sosa jersey and Cubs cap. "This is the best thing that I've ever been to." Most fans at the stadium were just happy to be there.

"To be a part of history is something I will never forget," said Bill Wehington, 49, of Morris, Illinois. "For Mark to do it with Sammy and the Cubs in town makes it even more emotional. For me to be here and witness it is mind-boggling."

In another National League game yesterday, it was Brewers 6, Pirates 3; and in the AL, the Texas Rangers shut out the Twins 6-0.

See BASEBALL, Page 18



THAT'S IT - Cardinals' Mark McGwire watches his 61st home run disappear into the St. Louis night. The first-inning blast ties him with Roger Maris for the most season home runs. (Reuters)

Man. Utd. takeover bid shakes English soccer

LONDON (AP) - The English soccer community shuddered yesterday over the implications of the possible sale of the Manchester United club to media baron Rupert Murdoch, as the sport's governing body called for talks with the British government.

Murdoch's satellite television company, BSkyB, issued a statement yesterday confirming it was involved in "discussions which may or may not lead to an offer being made for Manchester United plc." In reaction, the share price of the club - England's wealthiest and most famous - soared in trading, adding £123 million to its stock market value.

It had been valued at £413 million at Friday's close.

Other top clubs, whose revenues from TV broadcasting rights make them the most attractive business propositions, also saw gains.

Two British Murdoch-owned newspapers, *The Times* and the tabloid *Sun*, said he would make a formal offer by midweek to clinch a £275 million deal, which critics see as potentially giving BSkyB a stranglehold on TV and marketing rights to Premier League soccer.

The initial announcement Sunday was met with outrage among Manchester United supporters, who fear their interests are being overlooked, and generated much speculation about the future of the national game.

The implications of such a media-sports marriage would be "mind-blowing," said Professor Eric Dunning, a sociologist at the Center for Research into Sport and Society at Leicester University.

Manchester United, already the richest club in the land, would get richer, Dunning said, driving up player salaries and widening the gap between the haves and have-nots in English soccer.

Eventually, he said, the deal would result in an end to the tradition that allows smaller, lesser-known teams to emerge from lower divisions and win admission to the prestigious Premier League.

"They'll refuse to admit newcomers," he said. "That's what we think is going to happen. It's happening already." Further, he said, Murdoch could hasten the membership of Manchester United and other elite Premier League teams into the breakaway European Super League because of the lucrative television rights available.

Murdoch's BSkyB network, with multiple sports stations available via satellite and cable, has a four-year, £647 million pound contract to televise Premier League games through 2001.

In the US, his Fox-TV network recently bought the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team and has financial interests in the Los Angeles Lakers and New York Knicks basketball teams and the New York Rangers hockey team.

The British government said the proposed sale likely would be subjected to the scrutiny of the Office of Fair Trading.

Sports Minister Tony Banks said the government would look "very carefully" at competition issues.

Graham Kelly, chief executive of the FA, said Manchester United, formed in 1878 and owned since 1970 by Martin Edwards, has a responsibility to talk to its fans about any deal.

Fans staged an angry protest at the Old Trafford Sunday to condemn the sale of the club.

Maris could also play the game

NEW YORK (AP) - Home runs are baseball's slam dunks and end zone spikes, glitzy exclamation points that often leave fielding, running and throwing as forgotten fundamentals of the game.

Roger Maris never forgot those fundamentals. For a generation, Maris was the ultimate home run hitter, the man who broke Babe Ruth's record. More than that, however, he was a complete player, equipped with better-than-average speed, an outstanding arm and a basic understanding of the game.

When the Yankees traded for Maris in 1960, he was not welcomed warmly by the rest of the team. Second baseman Bobby Richardson explained why. "We had played against Maris when he was with Kansas City and Cleveland," Richardson said. "He had knocked me down at second base. He was the best in the league at breaking up the double play. I changed my way going across the bag on the pivot to avoid his rolling block."

That was just part of Maris' resume. Then there was his arm.

Mickey Mantle once said he never remembered Maris missing a cutoff man on relay throws, a remarkable achievement for any outfielder. Tony Kubek remembered how dedicated Maris was to the basics of the game.

Often overlooked in his chase to break the home run record was the fact that in 1961, the Yankees were in a tight pennant race, battling the Detroit Tigers. The pennant race came first with Maris, and Kubek remembered an example.

"Once in September, I was on third base and Roger bunted against Dick Stigman to get me in with the run," he said.

The home run slugger, laying down a bunt? It probably stunned Stigman and the Cleveland Indians. That, of course, was the whole idea.

"He wanted to play the game right," Kubek said. "He had an abiding respect for the game and its integrity." That meant playing hard, an approach that went well with his hard-edged personality. Maris was a curmudgeon and seemed to enjoy the role.

Germany coach Vogts steps down

BONN (Reuters) - Berti Vogts, under fire since Germany's shock World Cup quarter-final defeat by Croatia, stepped down as head coach yesterday.

"The DFB and Berti Vogts have agreed to release the national coach from his contract," German Soccer Federation (DFB) spokesman Wolfgang Niersbach said.

The 51-year-old Vogts, who was appointed in 1990 after West Germany won their third World Cup title in Italy, made his decision after a telephone conversation with DFB president Egidius Braun, Niersbach added.

His successor will be appointed as soon as possible, the DFB said in a statement.

Braun had kept his trust in Vogts after Germany lost 3-0 to Croatia in France last July and the coach, a member of the side which won the 1974 World Cup, was expected to carry on at least until the 2000 European championship finals.

Vogts hinted last month that he intended to carry on for a while

by saying he would retire if his men failed to qualify for Euro 2000.

But pressure increased after Germany put up two embarrassing performances in friendlies in Malta last week.

Germany, playing their first matches since their World Cup exit, could manage only a narrow midweek win over lightweight Malta followed by a tame 1-1 draw with Romania on Saturday.

"Berti, how much longer?" read Monday's front-page headline of the mass-circulation *Bild*. The report said Germany had played "awful football."

A poll released yesterday showed that German soccer fans were turning against the coach. According to the survey by private television channel RTL, 72 percent of 26,000 fans polled said they wanted him to go.

Shortly after Germany bowed out of the World Cup finals, RTL had asked their viewers if they wanted Vogts to stay in charge.

Just over 50 percent said they did.

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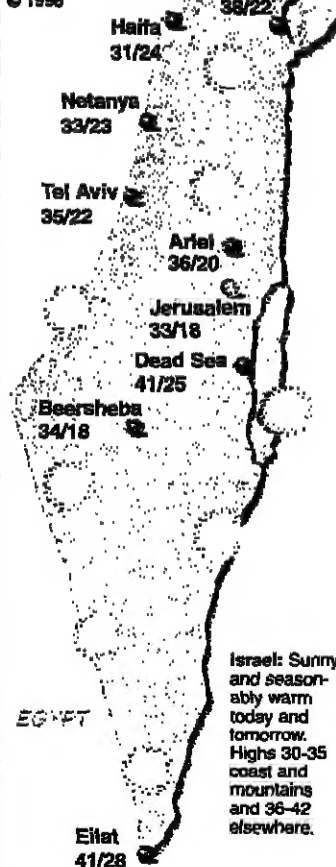
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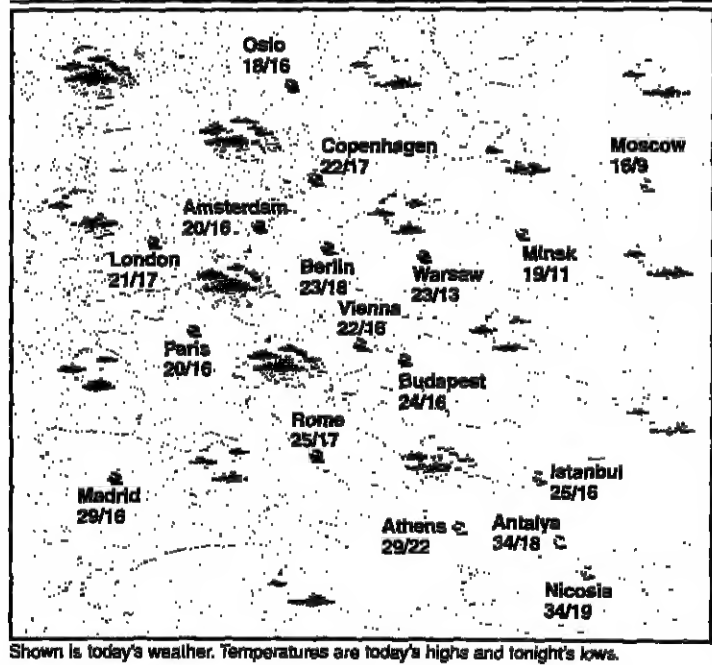
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EUROPE WEATHER TODAY

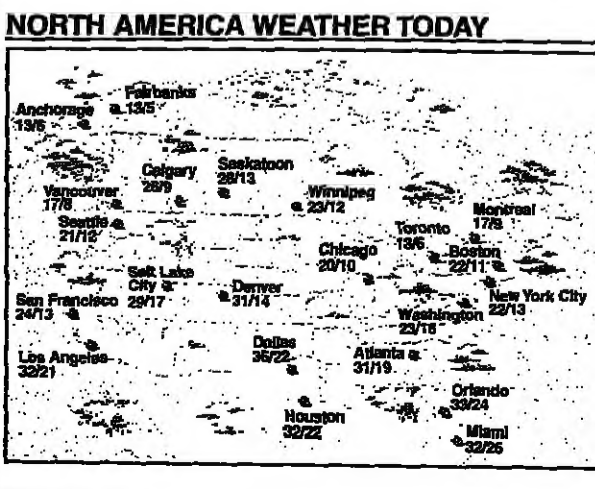


Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's high and tonight's low.

City	Today High/Low	Wednesday High/Low	Thursday High/Low	Friday High/Low
Ariel	35/27	35/27	35/27	35/27
Beersheva	34/26	34/26	34/26	34/26
Dead Sea	41/108	41/108	41/108	41/108
Eilat	41/108	41/108	41/108	41/108
Haifa	31/24	31/24	31/24	31/24
Jerusalem	33/21	33/21	33/21	33/21
Katzen	37/28	37/28	37/28	37/28
Netanya	33/21	33/21	33/21	33/21
Tel Aviv	35/25	35/25	35/25	35/25
Tiberias	38/108	38/108	38/108	38/108

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today High/Low	Wednesday High/Low	Thursday High/Low	Friday High/Low
Amsterdam	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Berlin	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Brussels	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Calgary	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Chicago	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Frankfurt	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Hong Kong	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Los Angeles	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
London	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Madrid	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Mexico City	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Montreal	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Moscow	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
New York	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Paris	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Peking	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Puerto Rico	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Rio de Janeiro	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Rome	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Sydney	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Tokyo	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Toronto	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Vienna	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Warsaw	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Washington	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Zurich	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8



سكنا من الامل